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THURSDAY JANUARY 3RD, 2019

Your chance to win copy of author's 'terrifying' debut novel - see page 3.

Pictures and a full round-up from the Ty Hafan New Year's Day Dip - page 17.

A change of direction as town's 'rural hub' project moves onto High Street

A planning application has been placed for a new community building in Cowbridge – intended to be a 'rural hub' in the town, but some local residents are shocked that the building now has a new location, next to the Market Place restaurant, writes PHILIP IRWIN.

The plan for a community building, that would house a farmers' market and small rural businesses, and that would also offer an area for live music performances and other activities, was launched about five years ago, after the Vale Council revealed plans to shut the existing livestock market, which takes place on a Tuesday.

There was a storm of protest and as a result, the Vale Marketing Action Group (VMAG) was formed, and plans for the building – a 'rural hub' – were produced. This building was intended to be near the existing livestock market.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Vale man is invited to Bishop Michael Curry's book signing

AN Ystradowen resident was personally invited to the US book signing of 'The Power of Love' written by Bishop Michael Curry who delivered the sermon at the royal wedding last May.

It was through his long-term connections to a church in North Carolina that Mr Gwyn Thomas received the invitation. He and his late wife Glenys spent over 30 years in America, leaving the Rhondda in 1976 and returning full-time to Wales in 2010.

Mr Thomas (85), a retired mechanical and manufacturing engineer, said: "While we were living in North Carolina we joined St Stephen's Episcopal Church in Oxford and made many friends. The church was a very strong and necessary part of the community."

Bishop Curry's wife Sharon is the musical director and organist at St Stephen's and she invited Mr Thomas and a family friend to attend the book signing which took place on December 18. In fact, a few months ago, while the UK was preparing for the royal wedding, Mr Thomas was making an emotional return to St Stephen's Church.

Mr Gwyn Thomas.

Glenys, who was well known in Cowbridge as a volunteer at Tenovus, died in 2017 and in May 2018 Mr Thomas took a special trip back to North Carolina. "My wife died in December 2017 and I returned to St Stephen's after arranging with the minister to take half of Glenys's ashes to the columbarium there."

The rest of her ashes were taken to the family cemetery in Treorchy.

"While I was out in America I watched the royal wedding at a hotel in Raleigh, North Carolina and later caught the FA Cup Final at the airport." During the trip to America, Mr Thomas stayed with a family friend – Margo Acomb, who worked as Bishop Curry's secretary for 10 years.

Mr Thomas said: "Unfortunately, Margo retired three years ago and missed a visit to the Vatican and the royal wedding! Bishop Curry is the Primate of the Episcopal Church of the US, the head bishop in North America."

Sharon Curry invited Margo and Mr Thomas as personal guests to the book signing of 'The Power of Love' which her husband wrote to inspire people and is based on his sermons and personal reflections.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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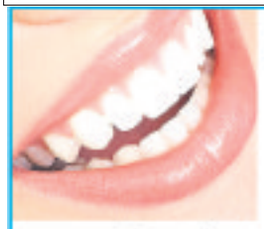
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Readers' Letters

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• Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address, contact telephone number. We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

Criticism of town is unfair

I am writing in response to recent letters published in The GEM regarding the 'state' of our town.

For me personally, shuttered shops is not the only issue. For two, nearly three years I have been battling with Barry Town Council over the state/neglect of the lane (which runs directly to the rear of Holton Road) from Kendrick Road to the back of Tesco.

This lane is a total and utter disgrace! It is constantly littered with smashed glass/bags and bags of rubbish, I could go on for days! Initially the council agreed in places to take some responsibility and took some measures to clean the lane. That, however, in the last year has completely stopped, as I now have been told "the land is private" and there is "nothing" they can do..

I have proof of these words via email responses.

I fear for the mothers and toddlers I see using this lane (passage through Hell feels more appropriate) due to the broken glass and God knows what else littering this area. I have spoken to neighbours who feel as I do, very angry about this problem. It is causing me, personally a great deal of anxiety.

Sometimes I feel ashamed of where I live and completely powerless to do anything to bring the council to account for their utter disregard towards the greater environment and the town's people as a whole.

I have attached pictures of some areas of the lane which cause me particular concern (directly behind Domino's Pizza); however, the problem extends all the way to the rear of Tesco also and is not isolated to just this area.

Further to this issue, what this proves also is what a total failure the council's new two black bag policy is, as you can see people have found new ways to dispose of their excesses.

Mr Evans,
Barry.

Friendship Club's thanks

WE would like to say a very big thank you to all the volunteer drivers who transport members of the Cowbridge Friendship Club to their monthly meetings at Llanblethian Church Hall and to wish them all a very happy and prosperous new year.

Olive Rawson and Pat Smith, Cowbridge.

Dinas reader asks Economy and Transport Minister to get his skates on

DEAR Mr Skates, I was not pleased to note that finance has been denied to the transport study group for the construction of a bypass for Dinas Powys as reported in the Barry & Penarth GEM of December 20.

Why has such a retrograde step been taken?

I am a retired resident of Cardiff Road, Dinas Powys and every day witness the stream of cars and delivery vehicles stopped, waiting, frustrated and impatient to make their way into Cardiff. Sooner or later this problem will have to be dealt with, particularly now that permission to build a further 2,000 houses in Barry and at various locations along the route has been granted.

The situation can only get worse with gridlock for more of the day.

Add to this the overriding problem of air pollution which is being wrought upon the residents of Dinas Powys throughout the day. It seems to me that an ostrich-like attitude continues to be taken by government, who must resolve the problem.

Let's face it, there's nothing to be pleased about. Tell it like it is.

Is the problem is too big for government at your and county level to resolve? Has the bypass such a low priority that there is no incentive to deal with the matter until the traffic problems at Culverhouse Cross/Port Road for better airport access remain unresolved?

What would help is a publicity campaign to say where we are in the pecking order for finance and road planning. What is the greater traffic plan for south Glamorgan: is it futile to pursue a bypass in the near or distant future; after all, a route was proposed in the 1920s and some of this has since been built on.

I await your reply with eager anticipation.

PW Blackwell,
Dinas Powys.

Unhelpful gesture politics by local councillor over Llancarfan school

WHILE I sympathise and agree with Jim Barratt's frustrations over the decision regarding Llancarfan School I am not sure what he believes Cllr Matt Lloyd's actions will achieve other than make the Conservatives' administration of the Vale that much more difficult.

What is not generally understood is that policies on Health, Housing and Education are devolved matters and as a result, formed by the Welsh Assembly Government and offer the local councils little or no scope for tailoring to specific local needs.

This is why we have a housing programme which is way beyond our requirements, with little or no thought given to infrastructure implications including transport, health, education and sewerage systems.

Unfortunately the Llancarfan School debate was led not by a Conservative, but by the one independent member responsible for education in the Vale Council cabinet.

At the end of the day, however, the continued existence of Llancarfan village school could not be supported simply because it could not be developed to the minimum roll levels required to comply with WAG funding conditions.

Cllr Lloyd would have been far better hanging on in there helping his colleagues put pressure on the WAG to better meet the aspirations of the Vale population as a whole. As things are, he is likely to have made things much more difficult.

Peter Graham-Woollard, Colwinston.

Concert success for Barry Male Voice Choir

THE many Christmas concerts over a very busy time for the Barry Male Voice Choir are over.

Choristers have enjoyed a well deserved rest following many community events and they wish to thank their old and new friends for their support and generosity.

The Christmas concert with the RAF St Athan Voluntary Band continues to be an eagerly awaited part of the Christmas tradition. The weather for last year's concert held at St Helen's R C Church, Barry, was dreadful – nothing but torrential rain. Fears of a small audience were groundless and the audience was one of the largest ever.

The concert raised £1,100 for Alzheimer's Society Cymru. Other performances took place at St David's Church, Wetherspoons, Barry Hospital and the King Billy.

The choir looks forward to greeting any men interested in singing at its taster evening advertised in The GEM.

Gareth Jones, Barry.

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Penarth Pier Pavilion, The Esplanade, Penarth, CF64 3AU
Penarth Town Council, Paget Rooms, Penarth, CF64 2YG
The Bay Caravan Park, St Mary's Well Bay Road, Lavernock, CF64 5XS
Dinas Powys Bowls Club, St Andrews Road, Dinas Powys, CF64 4HB
Select Convenience Store, 27 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL
Edmondes Arms, 9 Cardiff Road, Cowbridge, CF71 7EP
The Star Inn, Treoes, CF35 5DL
Llantwit Major Bowls Club, Recreation Ground, Boverton Rd, Llantwit Major, CF61 1XZ
Cowbridge Town Hall, High Street, CF71 7DD

Information supplied by www.welshhearts.org.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL JANUARY 8)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
03 Thur	04.27	8.9	16.52	9.0
04 Fri	05.17	9.1	17.39	9.2
05 Sat	05.58	9.3	18.20	9.1
06 Sun	06.39	9.5	18.58	9.4
07 Mon	07.18	9.7	19.33	9.4
08 Tues	07.49	9.4	20.08	9.1

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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'Terrifying' début novel from local author, and you could win a copy

SET locally and described as "… an accomplished and haunting psychological thriller about dark family dysfunction and the secrets that haunt us" is the début novel from Vanessa Savage, of Llantwit Major.

GEM readers can attend the launch for *The Woman in the Dark* at 7pm on Wednesday, January 16 2019 at Nickelby's Bookstore in Llantwit Major, and win a copy (see below).

Vanessa explained the plot of the novel, saying: "For Sarah and Patrick, family life has often seemed easy. But when Sarah's mother dies, it sends her into a downwards spiral. Knowing they need a fresh start, Patrick moves the family to the idyllic house he grew up in on the south Wales coast.

"But though for Patrick their new home carries only happy memories, to everyone else in the area it is known as 'The Murder House' – named for the family horrifically killed there. Patrick is adamant that they can make it perfect again; though with their children plagued by nightmares and the odd 'gifts' arriving on the doorstep, Sarah's not quite so sure.

"The longer they live in their 'dream home', the more different Sarah's kind, loving husband becomes. Soon Sarah starts to wonder what secrets really hide beneath its walls, and if they are secrets Patrick has been hiding his whole life."

ABOVE: Vanessa Savage.

Published by Sphere, *The Woman in the Dark* is a terrifying novel of the darkness both without and within, which fans of B.A. Paris, Clare Mackintosh, and Stephen King's *The Shining* will devour.

Vanessa has twice been awarded a Writers' Bursary by Literature Wales most recently for *The Woman in the Dark*. She won the Myriad Editions First Crimes competition in 2016 and her work has been highly commended in the Yeovil International Fiction Prize, shortlisted for the Harry Bowling Prize, and the Caledonia Fiction Prize.

To win a copy, please answer this question:

In the Stephen King story *The Shining*, the name of which famous horse makes an appearance? Is it:

A. Bucephalus

B. Red Rum

3. Champion, the Wonder Horse

Entries must be sent by email to editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk with the subject heading VANESSA SAVAGE COMPETITION followed by your initials, or by post (on a postcard or the back of a sealed-down envelope) to The Glamorgan GEM, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL, and received no later than noon on Monday, January 14, 2019.

Please include your full name, postal address, and email address so that you can be contacted if you are the winner.

The winner will be the first entry drawn out of a hat after that date, and must visit The GEM's office in Cowbridge to collect the book from the author and to have a photograph taken with her for publication in print and online (Only one entry per person, the Editorial Team's decision is final, no correspondence will be entered into, and no cash alternative is available).

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A special Christmas visit

THE Mayor and Mayoress of Cowbridge with Llanblethian enjoyed meeting residents and staff at Southways on Christmas morning.

They had a great welcome and enjoyed some sherry while helping to hand out presents. They also joined in with some singing and helped to celebrate a Christmas birthday.

The Mayor, Cllr Terry Williams, sends his congratulations to the staff, who are so caring, with some even volunteering to come in on their day off.

Ymweliad Nadolig arbennig

Mwynhaodd y Maer ar Maeres gyfarfod â thrigolion a staff yn Southways ar fore'r Nadolig. Cawsant groeso gwych gan fwynhau rhywfaint o sieri wrth helpu i gyflwyno'r anrhegion. Ymunon nhw hefyd yn y canu a helpu i ddathlu penblwydd un o'r trigolion ar ddydd Nadolig.

Maer Terry Williams yn anfon ei ddiolch a llongyfarchiadau i'r staff sydd mor ofalgar o'r trigolion gyda rhai hyd yn oed yn gwirfoddoli i ddod i mewn ar ddydd Nadolig.

Sing in the New Year with St Donat's Chorale

ST Donat's Chorale is holding a special event for anyone who enjoys singing but does not have the confidence to sing with people they do not know.

The choir is having a 'Come and Sing' day on Saturday, January 19 when anybody can just pop along; it is absolutely free, there are no auditions and you will receive coaching, as the choir start rehearsing for their next concert in April.

A choir spokesperson said: "The event will start at 11am and finish at 4pm but we would ask you to arrive a little earlier, so we can sort you out with music and put you with other choir members, whose voices are similar to yourself.

"The venue is our rehearsal base which is Ysgol Y Ddraig Primary School Ham Lane East Llantwit Major (CF61 1TQ).

"We will supply refreshments and home made cakes, again all free when we break for lunch at 1pm for an hour; you are welcome to bring a packed lunch along if you prefer.

"We are a mixed choir with over 45 members who treat music as a remedy for relaxing, doing 'something different' visiting various places to sing, sometimes with other choirs, but all the time just enjoying being with other people who like creating what is hopefully a beautiful sound.

"In order to ensure we have enough music to distribute, we need you to let us know in advance by either going on to our website at www.stdonats.org and registering your interest, or by picking up one of our fliers from the Town Hall, Llantwit library, St Illtud's Church or Nickelby's book shop, and completing the slip at the bottom and

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Paedophile found behind false wall in Cardiff flat

A PAEDOPHILE who has spent five years on the run from police will spend this Christmas in prison.

Brian Ward (62) from Pontyclun, who has evaded authorities since 2013, was found by a police officer hiding behind a false wall in a Cardiff flat on December 6.

While making enquiries, the officer heard voices inside a flat linked to Ward. While outside the address, the officer called a phone associated with him and heard the it ring inside the flat. After searching behind a bedroom mirror in the flat, the officer spotted Ward cowering behind a false wall.

Brian Ward.

He was arrested at the scene and appeared at Cardiff Crown Court where he was given a sentence of five years and 20 weeks.

In November 2013, he appeared at Newport Crown Court charged with gross indecency with a child under 16, and four counts of indecent assault on a female, but he was found guilty in his absence after he absconded midway through his trial.

Superintendent Ceri Hughes, said: "We've been looking for Brian Ward for some time. He evaded us for far longer than we would have liked, but he is now in custody where he belongs. He didn't want to face justice for what he had done and was clearly angry that he'd been caught.

"He tried absolutely everything to avoid capture, showing no remorse for his appalling actions years ago. Our search for suspects only ends when they are in custody, no matter how long it takes.

"I really hope the news that he is now in prison will enable his victim to have some closure on what has had such a negative impact on their life."

Group enjoy a fun-packed evening

COWBRIDGE & Llanblethian Women's Fellowship all enjoyed a fun packed evening together to celebrate Christmas 2018.

Amusing stories and readings were performed by group members – we had party games, festive songs and carols, together with, a festive supper. We paused to observe a minute's silence to remember Jean Powell, a longstanding member of the group, who passed away recently.

Why not do something different in 2019 and come and join us? We meet in the church hall, Llanblethian at 7.30pm on the first Thursday of the month.

Just come along and join us, or if you would prefer to know more about the Fellowship group events and activities, contact 01443 226412 or Georgina Magnay on 01446 774335.

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Rural hub comes to the High Street

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The council would sell part of the site as development land, and resurface and improve the existing car park.

More recently, the Vale Council said that there were plans to move the livestock market to a site – as yet unconfirmed – "just outside Cowbridge".

The VMAG changed its name to the Vale Market Community Enterprise (VMCE)and launched a bond scheme, inviting members of the local community to invest in the project. People who were interested were not required to come up with the money at the time and The GEM understands that, as £80,000 is still needed to fund the scheme,they will be contacted again to see if they will buy bonds in the revised plan.

Also, in a totally separate project, the Cowbridge Charter Trust announced plans to demolish the existing cattle sheds and create a temporary car park. This would also include exposing the historic town walls, and also refurbishing them in line with other stretches of the walls.

However, in between Christmas and the New year, residents received a letter from the Vale Council saying that an application had been placed to put the building, now named 'The Exchange' market hall, on the car parking area that is next to the Market Place restaurant.

The site of the proposed 'hub'.

The new plans show that the "community cafe" will front onto the High Street, next door to the Market Place restaurant.

The chair of VMCE, Mandy Davies, said that the direction of the project changed when, after the last council election in 2017, the Vale Council formed a new project board. This board, she said, had suggested the new location.

She said that the Vale Council planned to market the current livestock market area as a "mixed use development with a strong focus on proper parking provision, essential to attract proper footfall to the town".

She added that the loss of parking space next to The Market Place would be balanced by the spaces created when the cattle sheds are demolished.

"No work on the project would start, she said, until the new parking was available at the cattle shed site.

The GEM understands that a number of local residents have serious concerns and are preparing their responses.

One told The GEM: "As so many of the surrounding buildings are listed, a modern building would not fit in."

Another said: "I am concerned that the Vale Council may be offering incentives such as a 'peppercorn' rent to the VMCE, and this could create unfair competition in the high street with establishments who are paying the standard rate of rent and council tax."

Christmas lights provided 'festive boost' for children's charities

A LLANTWIT Major woman's display of Christmas lights has raised over £800 for two children's charities.

Toni Marley transformed the front of her house in Eaglewell Road into a 'winter wonderland.'

She told The GEM: "So far we have raised £850. We're very pleased with the figure because we had very bad weather at the start.

"There was lots of damage caused by the winds but we rebuilt the display and continued to raise money."

Funds will be divided between 'Health in Adolescence' and 'Action for Children'. Last year Toni staged a festive display and raised £2,200 for the neonatal unit at the University Hospital of Wales.

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Vale man has Curry favour

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Mr Thomas explained: "The book signing took place at St Michael's Church in Raleigh. They expected a mild response for the book signing – 150 perhaps – but in the end 500 people wanted tickets.

"We met Bishop Curry and his wife outside the church and were part of the procession that went inside and made its way onto the dais. I felt like royalty.

"Bishop Curry is a very cheerful, ebullient man and I couldn't wait to hear him preach."

The bishop gave a sermon, read from his book and held a question and answer session. Mr Thomas added: "I was able to have a chat with Sharon Curry and she was keen to know how people in the UK had responded to the sermon at the royal wedding. I reassured her that everything was positive.

"She told me that at the royal wedding she had been sitting behind Elton John and they had enjoyed a long chat together."

Bishop Curry's rousing 'power of love' royal sermon was watched by an estimated two billion people and made worldwide headlines. Mr Thomas returned to Wales just before Christmas and has been reflecting on his own connection to one of the most talked about events in 2018.

TC

Christmas at Cowbridge Library is 'a success'

WITH an angel treasure hunt, craft activities, storytelling and a visit from Father Christmas, Cowbridge Library well and truly entered into the Christmas spirit.

At the end of November, 12 angels appeared in and around Cowbridge High Street – and so began the Cowbridge Library Angel Treasure Hunt. The winner was Ryder Frederick from Cowbridge and library staff would like to thank the following businesses for taking part: WH Smith, Strawberry Fields, The Pencil Case, Old Hall Community College, Buttercup Cwtch, The Toy Box, The Co-Op, La Mercerie Wool Shop, Cocoa & Co, Stwff, Sylvia Williams Chemist, Cowbridge Book Shop.

On December 15, all was snug and warm inside for midwinter tales with storyteller David Ambrose. Everyone was spellbound as David wove his magical tales new and old…. Truly setting the scene for Christmas.

Julie M E Brown

U3A members enjoy view from the rocking stone

Cowbridge U3A members at the Rocking Stone.

WHAT links Edward Williams, also known as Iolo Morganwg, Dr William Price, Druid and the pioneer of cremation in Britain, and Keir Hardie, MP for Merthyr and Aberdare and outspoken advocate for miners?

The answer, as Cowbridge U3A History group learned from recent speaker Brian Davies, is to be found on Pontypridd Common in the shape of the Rocking Stone.

This seven-ton boulder from the Brecon Beacons was deposited during the last Ice Age on the plateau sited above the Taff valley floor. By chance, the stone landed balanced on top of another, so it will rock by about six inches (15 cm) if sufficient momentum is imparted by an energetic group, hence its name.

Not far from the rock are the remains of a pre-historic burial, dating from around 1500BC. Although the original mound has been flattened, some interesting features are still visible. The common also has a pre-historic standing stone, which is deliberately aligned on an east-west axis - another indication of the significance of this area to ancient people. As it is a natural pulpit, the Rocking Stone became an important meeting place.

Iolo Morganwg, stonemason, poet and inventor of the National Eisteddfod, organised a meeting of local bards (poets) here in 1814, to celebrate peace with France at the end of the Napoleonic Wars.

This began a tradition of such gatherings, which continued irregularly for over 100 years. The common elements were a procession up from town and poems on topical subjects, read from the rocking stone.

The colourful character Dr William Price of Llantrisant was linked with the common during the 19th century. There are several accounts of Price performing at the rocking stone, becoming increasingly eccentric in old age.

The stone circle and serpent were constructed for the inauguration in 1850 of Evan Davies, a local clock-maker and rival to Dr Price, who regarded himself as Archdruid of Glamorgan.

James James (composer of the music of 'Hen Wlad fy Nhadau') was known to enliven the meetings with popular tunes on the harp. His father, Evan, author of the words of what would become the Welsh national anthem, was a regular participant in the Gorsedd meetings.

In the 1860s, when wages were low and unemployment high, emigration agents spoke to crowds from the rocking stone and urged workers to seek a better life in USA or Australia.

At Tynewydd Colliery near Porth in 1877, five miners were rescued in circumstances somewhat similar to the Chilean miners' rescue in 2010. Because it was a disaster with a happy ending, it achieved huge worldwide publicity and a crowd, estimated at 50,000 strong, assembled at the rocking stone for the presentation of Albert medals to the men of the rescue brigade.

In 1898, when miners went on strike against wage reductions, they crowded around the rocking stone to hear Keir Hardie, the Scottish trade unionist and politician.

Druidic meetings ceased in 1921; Pontypridd had by then become a predominantly English-speaking town.

The last major public gathering on Pontypridd Common was for the unveiling of the war memorial by Viscount Allenby in August 1923. The obelisk is dedicated to the 5th Battalion, the Welch Regiment, many of whom were recruited in this area.

Ynysangharad War Memorial Park in Pontypridd was opened soon afterwards and became the major venue for large public events. Because of health and safety rules, the rocking stone is unlikely ever to become the site of large, organised meetings in the future. The boulder, however, remains a vantage point from where you can survey the town and its dramatic valley setting.

The illustrated talk was followed by a buffet.

The next Cowbridge U3A monthly meeting will be a talk entitled 'Head Hunters and Cannibals: Five years in the Solomon Islands' by Rob Cumbes at 2pm on Wednesday, January 9 at Cowbridge Town Hall.

Visitors welcome; there is a small fee, which includes refreshments. See www.u3asites.org.uk/cowbridge.

SPM

Got a story? Then get in touch with us - email **editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk** or give us a call on **01446 774484**

Ellie-Rose makes her first rescue!

Ellie-Rose Griffiths.

A PENARTH teenager responded to her first shout with Penarth Lifeboat Station last month.

Ellie-Rose Griffiths (18), who attends Stanwell School, had only received her RNLI pager a few weeks earlier.

An RNLI spokesperson said: "Our smaller D class lifeboat was launched following reports of two people being cut off on Sully Island shortly after 1.30pm.

"As the lifeboat rushed to the island, we received notification that the two people had made it back to the mainland, but even so a check was made of the island to ensure that no one else was cut off.

"Miss Griffiths has undergone her initial crew training and assessment and was one of the first crew at the station. She was able to go out on the boat with more trained crew members. We're all really proud of her."

Miss Griffiths said: "I've been training now for a few months, getting ready for my first shout. It was a bit funny leaving school, but everyone has been so helpful in letting me follow my dream of being a crew member."

High-level talks with Penarth Aviation Society

THERE have been several events at the Aviation Society last month. On the 7th, we were shown *Hurricane*, a film telling the story of Polish fliers who fought against the might of the Luftwaffe in the Battle of Britain.

On the 15th we met for our Christmas social, and many thanks to all those who helped organise the event. Our first meeting of 2019 will be held on Friday, January 4 at 7.45pm for 8pm at the Penarth Conservative Club.

Our speaker this month will be member Mike Duxbury. Mike has presented several talks in the past and we await this one with keen anticipation. His talk this time is entitled 'Reach for the Sky- Mankind's pursuit of Height'.

Since ancient times Mankind has been fascinated with height: settlements have been founded on hilltops, gods resided in high mountains (Mount Olympus), churches were built with tall steeples. This was for many reasons, including religious (getting closer to Heaven), and military (a better view of oncoming armies from a height).

However, it was only with the advent of aircraft in the early 20th century that humans were able to leave the ground and soar to great heights, and even escape the planet entirely. Mike will taking us on this journey though the ages to great heights.

The club meets on the first Friday of the month at Penarth Conservative Club. Visitors and potential members are welcome to attend a meeting, for a small donation.

For more information, visit www.penarthaviationsociety.co.uk.

HF

Panto stars' Marie Curie visit

PATIENTS at the Marie Curie Cardiff and the Vale Hospice in Penarth met cast members from the New Theatre's production of *Beauty and the Beast* – including The Beast/Prince Sebastian, played by Hollyoaks and West End actor Ben Richards, and comedian Mike Doyle and Stephanie Webber who visited the hospice last year.

"Christmas can be a difficult time for people living with a terminal illness and their families, so we were thrilled to be able to visit the hospice to bring a sprinkling of festive magic to patients, staff and visitors," said Mr Doyle.

"To be able to meet the patients, their families and to see for a short time the wonderful care provided by Marie Curie Nurses was wonderful."

Jan Townsend's granddaughters Hollie and Maisie were delighted with the visit.

"After the girls had been to see the pantomime, they were thrilled to see the cast up close when visiting their grandfather Eddie," she said.

98 bus service will not be extended after trial

A TRIAL extension of the 98 bus service in Barry ends next week, and the timetable will revert to the one before September. The service runs from Highlight Park to King Square via Morrisons supermarket.

Transport campaigners and politicians urged residents to use the enhanced service to make it financially viable, but Cardiff Bus has said that the response did not warrant a permanent change to the timetable.

A Cardiff Bus spokesman said: "The trial extension on service 98 will end and the service will revert back to its pre-September 2018 timetable from Monday, January 7. We have worked with the Vale Council and existing customers to raise the awareness of the trial afternoon service, but regrettably, despite best endeavours, we have not seen the level of usage increase to support the afternoon timetable on a permanent basis."

The trial ran from September 3 to December 21 and was agreed by Cardiff Bus and the Vale Council following a five-year campaign by residents who were keen to improve links between Highlight Park and Barry town centre.

Local councillor Vincent Bailey said: "Some feel that the pilot hasn't been as reliable as it could have been, but it is clear that we haven't seen the uplift in passenger numbers that we would have hoped for or expected."

He claimed Welsh Government cuts were responsible for the loss of all but the most profitable bus services, adding: "It's time for a rethink before more and more communities lose their vital transport lifeline."

Local campaigner Elwyn Toozer said he would have liked to see a longer trial period: "I was very disappointed at the Cardiff Bus decision not to give the service more of a chance as three months during dark afternoons hardly invites the elderly to travel. A six month trial in the spring would have been preferred. I'm disappointed for those who used the service on a regular basis and supported the campaign and will now be penalised because of those who complained about a lack of afternoon operation but did not use the service after several years of moaning. The Vale Council is to be thanked for helping fund the trial and perhaps a rethink on rerouting other services to cater for those that require an afternoon service for Highlight Park and Cwm Talwg."

News in brief

Barry Beavers

BARRY Beavers Disabled Swimming Club will resume at Barry Leisure Centre with a new time of 3.30pm – 5pm on January 12.

For more information about joining the club as a helper or swimmer (or both) contact the club's coach Pat Finch on 07517 121729 or find out more with GVS at Skomer Road, at the Communities First centre; or at the Library at King Square in Holton Road.

Stained glass lessons

MAKE your own stained glass project, starting on Monday, January 14 from 7pm-9pm at Sully Old School.

Call Eugene on 07813280128 for further information, or just turn up on the evening.

Barry man charged with 10 counts of 'non-recent sexual offences'

POLICE have charged a 71-year-old Barry man with a number of non-recent sexual offences.

Anthony Hampton was arrested in January, and was today charged with 10 counts of indecent assault. The charges relate to two people, who were children at the time of the alleged offences.

He will appear at Cardiff Magistrates Court on January 15.

Detectives are continuing to carry out further enquiries.

Mr Hampton is a Vale county councillor, repesenting the Illtyd ward. Debbie Marles, Monitoring Officer/ Head of Legal and Democratic Services at the Vale Council, said: "Cllr Hampton remains an elected member of the Council for the Illtyd ward.

"Under the Local Government Act it is only the Adjudication Panel for Wales that has the statutory power, following an application from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales, to suspend councillors on an interim basis. As the Council's Monitoring Officer, I have informed the Ombudsman's Office of this matter. Cllr Hampton does not currently sit on any committees.

"The Council takes allegations of this kind extremely seriously. After being informed of the arrest of Cllr Hampton by South Wales Police earlier this year the Vale Council, in conjunction with Barry Town Council, immediately instigated its safeguarding process in line with the All Wales Child Protection Procedures. The Council has since worked to assist the police with their investigation."

The Vale of Glamorgan Conservatives announced that Cllr Hampton had been suspended with immediate effect.

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Range of Savings Accounts

Account Name	Minimum Account Opening Balance	Minimum Account Operating Balance	Annual Interest GROSS/AER *
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Regular Saver	£25 - £500 per calendar month	£25 - £500 per calendar month	GROSS = 2.75% AER = 2.78%
90 Day Notice	£5,000	£1	1.35%
Cash ISA	£1	£1	1.35%
Cash JISA	£1	£1	2.25%
Young Saver	£1	£1	GROSS = 2.25% AER = 2.28%
First Adult Saver (For customers aged 18-30)	£1	£1	GROSS = 1.50% AER = 1.51%

These INTEREST RATES are variable. They may be amended in response to changing economic conditions or as required in the interests of financial expediency and the prudent management of the Society.

If you require details of the current interest rate payable on your account please contact the Society on (01792) 759100 or call in to one of the Society's branch offices across South Wales where staff will provide this information to you.

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* GROSS The Gross rate is the contractual rate of interest before the deduction of income tax.
* AER Stands for Annual Equivalent Rate and illustrates what the interest rate would be if interest was paid and added each year.

Swansea Building Society is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. Financial Services Register Number: 206068.

Large crowds out to support the Boxing Day Hunt

THERE are many local Christmas and New Year traditions in the Vale, and one of the oldest is the Boxing Day hunt in Cowbridge.

The event always attracts large crowds – estimates put it at around 1,500 people – out to support the hunt, which is mostly made up of members of the Glamorgan Hunt, along Cowbridge High Street to see some 95 mounts and mounted, and the hounds, as they leave town.

As ever, there were plenty of young riders taking part, and the ever-elegant equestriennes riding sidesaddle.

Photographs by Mike Wilcock (*wilcock60@aol.com*)

Local man receives his Queen's Birthday OBE

A LOCAL man, Jeff Savory, who received an OBE in the Queen Birthday Honours list in May, was presented with his medal on Thursday, December 20, by HRH Prince Charles, Prince of Wales at Buckingham Palace.

Mr Savory told The GEM: "My wife Valerie, my youngest son James and eldest grandson Rhys attended the event with me.

"I was pleased that some of my family where able to attend and share this experience, because without their support I would have not been able to give the time I have given to disability sport

"It was had a great experience for the members of my family who attended my investiture at Buckingham Palace, and a very proud day for us all.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank my wife Valerie for her support throughout the years that we have both been involved with disability sport."

Pictured above are Valerie, James and Jeff Savory at Buckingham Palace.

'Hand through letter box' sparks social media frenzy

SOMETHING was afoot on Christmas Day in Barry when a resident claimed to have seen a man's hand coming through the front door letter box, which Barry police are investigating.

A similar incident was reported nearby and people took to social media to warn one another.

A police spokesperson told The GEM: "We are investigating an attempted burglary which took place in Queen Street, Barry, on December 25, shortly before 11.50pm.

"The homeowner reported seeing a man's hand coming through the letter box of the front door. The resident opened the front door and the man ran off.

"A similar report was received from a resident in High Street at around 12am."

If anyone has any information, call 101, quoting reference 1800485443 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Lions make donation to local nursery school

TO follow the Cowbridge Reindeer Parade on the afternoon of November 25, Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions repeated the children's activities in the Lesser Hall, an event which proved very popular last year.

There was entertainment by The Magnificent Johno, Christmas-themed craft activities and games provided by Cylch Meithrin Y Bont Faen nursery, Fowl Play and a tombola. At the end of the afternoon, much to the delight of the children, Santa put in an appearance.

The activities were open to young children up to the age of eight, and entrance was free.

A spokesperson said: "Feedback on the event was excellent and it is the intention of both Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions and the nursery to do the same again next year."

In recognition of their support on Reindeer Parade day and to assist with their work, Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions presented the nursery with a cheque for £250, which will benefit children attending the nursery.

JA

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Vale AM wishes peace and hope for the New Year

AS we greet the New Year, we will all be hoping for peace and certainty for the future for our families, communities and the economy and for all those who are vulnerable and in need in the world.

I look forward to playing my part in the new Welsh Government led by Professor Mark Drakeford AM, supporting him in his office in the key central functions and responsibilities of the Welsh Government with the first Cabinet held a few days after his appointment of ministers and full briefings on my portfolio leading up to Christmas.

It was a memorable moment to participate in the ceremony with The Hon Mr Justice Lewis taking the oath of allegiance as a new minister in the Government, accompanied by Carys Williams, who heads my office as your AM in the Vale.

With Equalities in my portfolio, I was delighted that the new First Minister delivered on his promise to have a gender balanced Cabinet. In fact, he has appointed more women than men to the Welsh Government following in the footsteps of his mentor, former First Minister Rhodri Morgan, including the appointment of my constituent, former MP and AM for Cardiff North Julie Morgan AM.

It is also welcome that both Vaughan Gething and Eluned Morgan, who were candidates in the Labour leadership contest, are in key positions in the Cabinet.

I have enjoyed a number of Christmas concerts and services across the Vale of Glamorgan over the past few weeks starting with the RNLI service, followed by Barry Community Choir, Barry Ladies' Choir, Barry Male Voice Choir, Barnardo's fundraising coffee morning, and Ewenny Priory Christmas concert.

Funds have been raised for charities and the annual Christmas dinners have been well attended, organised by teams of volunteers – Royal British Legion and the Friends and Neighbours with Age Connects, where I held a busy surgery before Christmas.

Christmas is a time of joy and happiness for many but not for all; and I was pleased to donate a Christmas hamper I won at All Saints' Church to the Vale Foodbank with church members adding to the hamper, so a large donation was taken to St Mary's Church before Christmas.

ASSEMBLY NOTES

by Vale AM JANE HUTT

The growing need for support for families to access foodbanks is of great concern and I was pleased to take part in the annual collection at Tesco, where shoppers were generous with their donations.

I chaired a meeting of local agencies involved in supporting people with Universal Credit now being rolled out in the Vale. I have raised my concerns throughout the year about Universal Credit and the way it is being implemented, causing anxiety and hardship throughout the country, and we hope the UK Government will heed the concerns raised and make changes to its delivery.

I was pleased to visit Barry Hospital on Christmas Eve to thank the staff and volunteers as well as meet patients and relatives visiting before Christmas. Getting rid of the punitive parking fines system was a great outcome after a long campaign but I am now working with the Health Board to make many more positive changes to the hospital with exciting plans to be announced in the New Year.

I am pleased that local schools and voluntary groups such as Beautiful Barry and Green Gibbys are getting involved in these plans.

Speaking at the funeral of Catherine Watkins before Christmas was a great honour and privilege as we came together to remember and celebrate the life of this remarkable person , who achieved so much in her life; passing away so tragically after a long fight with illness but leaving the wonderful Vale Parent/Child Homework Support Club for us to take forward.

We remember those who have served, as she did, as a parent, aunt, daughter and inspiring community leader. Cath Watkins served her community in a wonderful, imaginative way bringing so much hope and goodwill to others as well as her beloved family.

B l w y d d y n Newydd Dda.

Masonic bikers support the Amelia Trust Farm

Paul Haley visited the Amelia Trust Farm to see the valuable work it undertakes and present a cheque for £500.

SOUTH Wales Freemasons Motorcycle Club, known as 'Widows Sons', recently donated £500 to the Amelia Trust Farm at its Christmas Farm Day. The money was raised through bike ride outs and events.

The Vale-based Amelia Trust Farm is a countryside sanctuary members of the public are welcome to visit. As a registered charity, it has a long history of providing therapeutic support to disadvantaged and vulnerable people in a care farm setting.

Paul Haley, communications officer for South Wales Freemasons, braved the weather to present a cheque to Amelia Trust Farm director Karen Turnbull.

Karen said: "We are very grateful to the Widows Sons South Wales Masonic Bikers for raising £500 for us through ride outs and events. We also had the pleasure of meeting masonic biker Steve Woodfin from Barry, who helped us with Father Christmas duties in the afternoon. Thank you to everybody involved – it will help towards maintenance of the farm and the vital work we do with vulnerable people."

Paul Haley said: "I am proud to have been asked by the Widows Sons to present a donation to assist with the upkeep of the farm and the vital work undertaken with vulnerable people."

Anyone who is a biker and wants to know more about becoming a Freemason can search Facebook www.facebook.com/WSMBAWales.

For all the latest news
glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Llandough woman reported missing

DIPTI Dattani, 56, has been reported as missing from an address in the Llandough area; she was last seen on Monday, December 17.

Officers looking for Ms Dattani are concerned for her welfare and want to hear from anyone who may have seen her.

She is around 5ft 4 and of medium build. When last seen she was wearing teal and white coloured headscarf, two layers of clothing, a blue and white skirt and top and an orange and brown shawl and wearing wellington boots.

Anyone who may know of Ms Dattani's location or who may have seen her at any time since December 17 is asked to contact us via 101 quoting reference *475328 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Winter walks for ramblers

EACH year, ramblers host a Festival of Winter Walks with groups all across the country taking part to encourage people to enjoy the benefits of walking.

Penarth and District Ramblers' second festival walk was led by Jan and John, who hosted a group of 14, beginning from Cosmeston Country Park. They headed over the new footbridge and past the medieval village to join Mile Lane, across Lavernock Road. They headed south along St Mary's Well Bay Road to join the Wales Coast Path, crossing muddy fields into Lavernock Nature Reserve with views of Sully Island.

The muddy clifftop brought them to Lavernock Battery and the ruined World War Two heavy anti-aircraft gun emplacements, before continuing through the reserve emerging onto Fort Road. They walked south to St Lawrence Church, where a plaque on the outer wall commemorates Marconi, assisted by George Kemp, transmitting the first wireless signal across open water on May 13, 1897.

The cliff top path led them back to Cliff Parade and deviating through Windsor Gardens, they descended to a sunlit Penarth Pier for morning coffee, before heading up through Alexandra Park and the Dolly Steps to make their return via the disused railway track.

The following day, Ann hosted the third walk beginning from Cogan Leisure Centre, when a group of eight made their way down to Pont y Werin to join three more walkers. Crossing the River Ely, they joined Watkiss Way to the boardwalk on the western side of Cardiff Bay. Reaching the River Taff, they crossed Clarence Road Bridge and made their way along the embankment into Hamadryad Park before heading under the A4232 and into the Wetlands Wildlife Reserve towards St David's Hotel.

Reaching Mount Stuart Square for morning coffee, they headed along busy Mermaid Quay and walked past the Senedd, the Norwegian Church and the Scott memorial, across the Cardiff Bay Barrage which was heaving with youngsters on new Christmas bicycles and scooters.

From the Custom House, they crossed the lock gate at the Penarth Marina and made their way along the River Ely via John Batchelor Way to climb Marconi Avenue for the return along pavements to Cogan.

On January 4, meet at 10am at Dinas Powys Village Square for a 4.5-mile easy walk at Dinas Powys and St Andrews; contact Joy on 01446 737131.

On January 5, catch the 9am train from Barry or 9.15am from Cogan to arrive at Radyr railway station at 9.40am for a five-mile easy walk taking in Radyr Woods and the Glamorgan Canal; contact Geraint on 029 2051 5278.

On January 10, the Shortish Strides morning walk will leave Colcot Sports Centre, Colcot Road Barry for a six-mile easy/moderate walk at Highlight, Dyffryn and Brynhill; contact Joy on 01446 737131.

Joy Strangward

GORCHYMYN CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG (A48 (RHAN) Y BONT-FAEN) (CYFYNGIAD CYFLYMDER 30MYA) (DROS DRO) 2019

Mae Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, wrth arfer ei bwerau dan Adran 14(1) Deddf Rheoleiddio Traffig Ffyrdd 1984 (fel y'i diwygiwyd) a'r holl bwerau galluogi eraill yn cynnig, mewn dim llai na 7 diwrnod o ddyddiad yr Hysbysiad hwn, wneud Gorchymyn a fydd yn gwneud yr hyn a ddisgrifir yn yr atodlenni isod:

ATODLEN 1

Ni fydd unrhyw berson yn achosi neu'n caniatáu i gerbyd modur deithio'n gyflymach na 30 milltir yr awr rhwng y lleoliadau a nodir yn Atodlen 2 isod:

ATODLEN 2

Lleoliad: Yr A48 o Gibbets Hill, y Bont-faen i'r lôn ddi-enw sy'n arwain at Eglwys St Brynach.

Rheswm: Mae'r cyfyngiad yn cael ei weithredu i alluogi gwaith i wella'r ffordd.

Hyd: O 0.01 ar 14 Ionawr 2019 am hyd at 18 mis.

Dyddiedig 3 Ionawr 2019
Cyfarwyddwr Amgylchedd a Thai
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Yr Alpau,
Quarry Road, Gwenfô, CF5 6AA.

VALE of GLAMORGAN BRO MORGANNWG

9x6

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (A48 (PART) COWBRIDGE) (30MPH SPEED RESTRICTION) (TEMPORARY) ORDER 2019

The Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984 (as amended), and of all other enabling powers intends in not less than seven days from the date of this Notice to make an Order, the general effect of which is as described in the schedules below:

SCHEDULE 1

No person shall cause or permit a motor vehicle to proceed at a speed greater than 30 miles per hour between the location specified in Schedule 2 below:

SCHEDULE 2

Location: The A48 from Gibbets Hill Cowbridge to the un-named lane leading to St Brynach's Church.

Reason: The restriction is being implemented to allow new road improvement works to take place.

Duration: From 0.01 Hours on 14th January 2019 for a maximum period of 18 months.

Dated this 3rd day of January 2019
Director of Environment & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council, The Alps,
Quarry Road,Wenvoe, CF5 6AA.

VALE of GLAMORGAN BRO MORGANNWG

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Vale Ramblers see out the year with a lovely stroll!

AFTER the recent wet weather, members of the Vale Ramblers group were happy to be out and about on Sunday for the final walk of 2018.

Starting at St Brides Major after a gentle climb on to the top of Old Castle Down, we made our way to cross the clapper bridge in Cwm Alun, where the river was in full flow.

Crossing the railway line and heading down through Tingle Lane and woods to Ewenny, we enjoyed our lunch at the Priory.

Our leaders Peter and Jean entering into the spirit of the season provided some mulled wine and stollen.

Up to this point we had been lucky ,with the weather, but as we made our way through Corntown after lunch, the rain started and stayed with us for the rest of the walk.

We were fortunate enough to be joined on this walk by Santa's little helpers, Ruth and Gwion. The post-walk drinks get-together was at Southerndown.

GF

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Vale Mayor's fund helps out community groups

A TOTAL of seven organisations have received grants from the Vale Mayor's Foundation Grant Fund in time for the New Year.

The RNLI Barry Lifeboat, Tir a Môr District Scouts, Valeplus, Valeways, Ty Cadoc's Residents Association received £250 from the Mayor's grant fund. The National Coastwatch Association received £157.

The Highlight Park Community Neighbourhood Watch is made up of 16 street co-ordinators and received £243 towards their new project. The watch wants to set up 'Highlight Community Cuppa', which would meet at the community centre on a fortnightly basis.

Deputy group coordinator Barbara Bowering, Highlight Park Community Neighbourhood Watch Group coordinator Ada Finn, said: "Highlight Park is two miles from Barry town, and people can feel isolated. We want to reach out to men and women in the neighbourhoods of Illtud and Dyfan, as well as Highlight Park. Our aim is to help raise community spirit, by getting rid of loneliness and spreading the word that support is out there for people."

The aim of the Mayor's Foundation Grant Fund is to offer grants to community groups, the voluntary sector and not-for-profit organisations towards the cost of initiatives in the Vale of Glamorgan that help to support the council's vision of 'strong communities with a bright future'.

Vale Mayor Cllr Leighton Rowlands said: "I am pleased to present these groups with grants from the Mayor's Foundation Grant Fund 2018/19. It is clear that the members of each organisation are hardworking people, dedicated to their cause.

"I believe that supporting community groups, the voluntary sector and not-for-profit organisations across the Vale is vital, and I am happy to support as many groups as possible, to ensure they continue to thrive."

The fund aims to provide funding of between £100 and £250. The specific funding available each financial year to be allocated is £5,000. For more information, or to apply for this funding, you can download the application form and guidance notes from the Vale website or email TheMayor@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

'Relief road needed as well as toll-free bridge'

THE abolition of tolls on the Severn bridges was universally welcomed, but a Vale-based company has pointed out more needs to be done to help businesses using the M4 corridor.

Masons Moving Group regularly uses the Prince of Wales Bridge for journeys to southern regions of the UK and to Europe.

Director Brett Mason said: "The financial saving will be considerable. At least five of our vans a week go up and down the M4 and our European trucks come back that way about twice a week.

"We also have UK removals to and from the south or west of England.

"As a company, we are happy to be making these savings but this is completely counteracted by the losses caused by congestion at the Brynglas tunnel which is still a massive problem."

He added: "Until a relief road happens around Newport, it is difficult to see congestion improving in the short term."

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Bro Morgannwg's 'magical' Christmas concert in Penarth

ON December 19, Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg held a magical Christmas concert.

At the All Saints Church in Penarth, over 150 pupils performed Christmas carols and songs. The audience were entertained for an hour and a half of enchanting music. As well as musical performances, the concert also consisted of dramatic presentations discussing Christmas today, and readings from members of staff and pupils.

Members of the sixth form captivated the audience with their musical talents. Anni Davies and Begw Rowlands performed individually and enchanted the audience. Aled Misra, with his powerful voice sang a solo, with the choir behind him to end the spectacular concert. The primary school children also performed their teacher's original song, 'Heno Carolau' to deafening applause.

Mr Hywel Price, headteacher and presenter of the evening said: "The standard was outstanding. It is astonishing to see the professionalism of these pupils. They presented a beautiful concert, while many of them are also in the middle of preparing for exams!

"All the performances were mesmerising. I would to thank all the pupils for their commitment, but also the teachers, particularly the music and drama department, for their hard work preparing for this concert. This was an unforgettable concert."

A collection was made on the evening to raise money towards the church. The school would like to thank the church and Dafydd Jones for welcoming them, and also to Euros Rhys Evans who played the organ on the evening. Nadolig Llawen i bawb!

HL

Got a story? Then get in touch with us - email **editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk** or call **01446 774484**

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Dog Trainer Lyndsey said: "Mutley is a sensitive lad, but with some treats and slow handling, he will soon become your best friend. If you are looking for a loyal companion, Mutley may be the one for you."

For more information on Mutley, visit the Dogs Trust Rehoming Centre in Bridgend, CF31 4NG, call 01656 725219 or visit www.dogstrust.org.uk.

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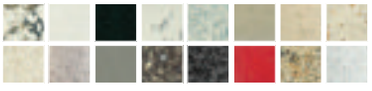

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Cor Bro Ogwr's anniversary concert

IT was an evening of celebration, happy memories and heartfelt singing recently at Cor Bro Ogwr's anniversary concert!

In spite of the disappointing absence of our conductor emeritus, Alun John, due to illness, choir, soloists and orchestra gave a rousing performance which was received warmly by the audience.

The pieces, chosen from concerts, trips and conductors through the years, had all been resurrected and newly polished by Rosie Howarth, our current conductor and Alun John, who managed to fit in some rehearsals of the pieces he had chosen before the concert itself.

We welcomed back our popular tenor from our early days, Richard Allen. We all loved his rendition of 'Roses of Picardy', where the choir and audience quietly joined in the chorus. His career has gone from strength to strength and he is much in demand for his opera, oratorio and concert work.

Our soprano soloist Erin Alexander is now becoming a firm favourite with the choir, and is clearly destined for great things; such a beautiful, powerful voice from a small person! Erin is studying in the Conserveatria Luigi Cherubini, Florence, and is set to perform in a number of operas with them.

Our baritone, Jack Bowtell, is currently studying for his Masters in Operatic Performance under Donald Maxwell and we hope to hear him again soon. We are fortunate to have such talented musicians with us, soloists and orchestra, as we continue in our commitment to support young musicians.

We are grateful for the support from The National Lottery through the Arts Council of Wales and the Welsh Government, and Ty Cerdd.

Dominique Spearey

Golf and 'wellness' accolades for the Vale Resort Hotel

The Vale Resort in Hensol has been named Wales' best golf hotel and best resort spa for the second year running at the World Travel Awards - and has also earned itself a coveted place in the first edition of Lonely Planet's 'Wellness Escapes' book.

The four-star hotel and leisure venue was named Wales' Best Golf Hotel 2018 at the fifth annual World Golf Awards at La Manga Club, Spain.

The Vale Spa was also named Wales' Best Resort Spa 2018 at the fourth annual World Spa Awards, held at the St Regis Maldives Vommuli resort in the southern Dhaalu Atoll. The resort won both titles in 2017, too.

Both ceremonies are organised by the World Travel Awards to recognise the best in travel and leisure, and have been described by the Wall Street Journal as the 'Oscars of the travel industry'. In both awards, votes are cast by professionals working within each industry and by members of the public.

The Lonely Planet Wellness Escapes guide is a round-up of wellness holiday hotspots from around the world. Divided into five chapters, including Active, Calm, Healthy, Indulged and Inspired, the book features reviews of almost 200 leading destinations from across the globe – from yoga retreats in India to Buddhist meditation temples in Korea.

Stephanie Metson, marketing manager at the Vale Resort, said: "We are delighted to retain our titles from the World Travel Awards, which are regarded as a benchmark of quality in our industry - it's a credit to the entire team that we find ourselves celebrating double success again 12 months later.

"It's also truly humbling to be featured in a global list of the best places to experience total wellbeing and relaxation as part of the Lonely Planet Wellness Escapes guide.

"We believe our spa, which is Wales' largest, offers a warm welcome and access to plenty of bespoke relaxation spaces, in addition to indulgent treatments, and that sets us apart from other hotels with spa facilities.

"In addition we pride ourselves on delivering a memorable golf experience for players of all levels, which is why we also invested £250,000 this year in state-of-the-art golf buggy equipment.

"Investment has proven key to keeping our guests happy, and the focus on comfortable surroundings, as well as facilities, is a big part of the service we provide. The £500,000 upgrade of our bedrooms this year demonstrates our commitment to quality across the resort."

'Thank you to the Macmillan team for a great Christmas'

ABOVE: Bethan and her children Matthew, Megan and Reuben had a wonderful Christmas thanks to the support of the Macmillan team at Barry Hospital.

A mother of three who endured five months of cancer treatment last year has thanked the Macmillan team at Barry Hospital for its support over Christmas.

Bethan Close said she wanted the public to know about the vital role that charities play over the festive season.

She explained: "In March 2018 I was diagnosed with a rare form of non Hodgkin lymphoma.

"I had four months of intense chemotherapy and three weeks of radiotherapy. I've now been in remission since October 24, 2018."

Despite the concerns over her health Bethan was determined that her children should enjoy a great Christmas and approached Macmillan Cancer Support for a helping hand.

She explained: "I'm a single parent to three young children and taking the last 10 months off work has taken its toll financially, especially with Christmas around the corner.

"After approaching Sarah at my local Macmillan support team for financial help towards bills, she and her team went the extra mile to deliver extra Christmas presents for my children.

"My children have been so strong this last year and we forget about the charities that are around to help pick up the pieces after cancer.

"I want to thank everybody who contributed to make this Christmas just as special for us as any other year."

TC

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Temporary 30mph speed restriction at CowbridgeA48

A number of readers wrote to The GEM over Christmas curious as to a sign on the A48 advising that the speed limit will be restricted, in one section, to 30mph.

An email to the Vale Council from this newspaper elicited no response, but as readers may see on Page 8 of this week's paper, the reason is for road improvement works to be carried out on the stretch near the Clare Farm development from Gibbet's Hill to an unnamed lane leading to St Brynach's Church.

The notice states that the speed limit will come into force at one minute past midnight on Monday, January 14, 2019 to last for "…a maximum period of no more than 18 months".

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Out & About with The GEM

This comedic take on Sherlock Holmes is an absolute stinker...

WILL Ferrell and John C Reilly together have, thus far, equated to comedy gold. From Talladega Nights to Step Brothers (arguably Ferrell's last knockout offering), the pair have delivered the goods, so the news that they were teaming up to tackle Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson was one that, given their pedigree, should have been something of a slam dunk.

In Holmes and Watson, Sherlock (Ferrell) and his long-time companion Watson (Reilly) must act quickly after being warned that they have four days to solve a crime before the Queen is murdered and history rewritten. Complicating things somewhat is Dr Hart (Rebecca Hall) and her companion Millie (Lauren Lapkus), who steal the affections of the titular duo as time slowly starts to run out for the Queen – and Holmes' reputation...

Given that Christmas is usually a slow news time, the odd story may pop up about things that wouldn't normally be given the time of the day. This year's hot topic was the critical mauling given to this film, with cinemagoers walking out and giving the film a less-than-favourable verdict.

Is the mass populace right? In this instance they are, for Holmes and Watson is a film that struggles along, failing to ever catch light, and, crucially, raises only the faintest of laughs if any at all.

Seeing Will Ferrell and John C Reilly back together on screen is a delight, but once this film kicks in, it becomes something more akin to a nightmare. The pair both struggle to get going and, all too often, the film lowers itself to puerile jokes that aren't even all that funny.

GEM SCREEN TALK with GARETH JAMIESON
Follow him on Twitter - @GEMScreenTalk

The pair play to type – Ferrell's Holmes an egotistical buffoon while Reilly's Watson is unwavering in his admiration and prepared to do anything asked of him by the arrogant Holmes – and while both try gamely, they just can't deliver anything approaching amusing.

Personally, there was one huge laugh and a medium one that, sadly, says more for my childish sense of humour than it does the sophistication of the comedy on show, and for writer/director Etan Cohen, this certainly isn't his finest hour.

The story is reductive and, given its race-against-time aspect, all too unhurried, while Cohen and (male) cast spend so much time delivering stupid, imbecilic gags that the female element (Rebecca Hall, Lauren Lapkus and Pam Ferris' Queen) get barely more than a look in, reduced to plot devices that aren't even used properly.

What also goes against the grain is that Holmes' idiocy and bufoonery are so barely disguised that anyone with vague intellect could realise the sort of person he is. However, that would hugely alter the character's place in the storytelling, so this element passes by without note.

Stylistically, Cohen goes for a mix between Guy Ritchie slow-mo and Cumberbatch-esque visual solutions, and it feels like a hackneyed mash up between the two. Even the additional dialogue, recorded after the film has been shot, is lazily inserted with several scenes seeing mouths moving to words they aren't even saying.

It all adds up to a film that is lazy, unfunny and a waste of time for all involved, most notably the cinemagoer. Even an avowed Ferrell fan such as myself, who can see the light in even the darkest of times (Get Hard, The Campaign) can't answer for this crime. Holmes and Watson is, quite aptly given its release date, a real turkey.

VERDICT: A huge misfire, Holmes and Watson fails to exercise its funny bone in a lumpen and mediocre offering. The cast try gamely but all too often overcompensate for the lack of humour in the script, and writer and director Etan Cohen delivers the film with such little zeal and fervour, that you wonder what the point of it was. *Avoid at all costs.*

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: Step Brothers (2008), Without A Clue (1988).

Vale cinemas team up for new film events

VALE Venues is an inventive new partnership between Film Hub Wales and 11 mixed arts centres and community cinemas across the Vale.

The venues will work together to promote film screenings at all sites, giving rural audiences the best chance to find out what's happening in their town or village.

Coordinated by the Memo Arts Centre in Barry, the largest independent cinema in the Vale, the project will launch with a series of special ice-breaker film screenings across the cinema network in early 2019.

Vale Venues and the Memo will present a festival that celebrates film under the theme 'Discovery.' Spanning from summer to Christmas 2019, the film festival will be the first of its kind in the county.

Venues involved in the project also include Barn At West Farm, Colwinston Community Cinema, Cowbridge Big Screen, Dinas Powys Community Cinema, Llancarfan Community Cinema, Memo Arts Centre, Peterston Village Hall, Snowcat Cinema at Penarth Pier Pavilion, St Donats Arts Centre, Sully Community Cinema and Ystradowen Community and Sports Association.

Nicola Summer Smith from Creative Rural Communities, said: "We identified the social value of community cinemas for the Vale and helped support them in their early days. It's been great to see how these cinemas have developed to serve their own communities, and how new cinemas are still being formed."

For more information about Vale Venues screenings and venues, see their Facebook page or check the Barry Memo page.

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Helen 01446 750738/ 07968 355119

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Elfed Avenue United Church, Elfed Avenue, Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan, CF64 3LX
Martin - 07444 374377

Tuesdays 5.30pm
Gladstone Primary School, Gladstone Road, Barry
Sarah 07917 881220

Tuesdays 9.30am, 11.30am, 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Parish of Our Lady & St Illtyd, (Catholic Church), Ham Lane East, Llantwit Major
Helen 01446 750738/ 07968 355119

Tuesdays 6.30pm
The Old School, South Road, Sully CF64 5TG
Nicola 07951 510871

Wednesdays 5.00pm
All Saints Church Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth
Julia 07718 284171

Wednesdays 4.45pm and 6.45pm
St Francis Millennium Centre, Park Road, Porth-Y-Castell, Barry
Annamarie 07837 497523

Wednesday 3.30pm, 5.30pm, and 7.30pm
Bridgend Deaf Club, Coychurch Road, Bridgend
Helen 07714 170908

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Karl 07411 621866

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ADVERTORIAL

Toy and Train Sale comes to town!

THE regular collector's bonanza reaches Cardiff again shortly when Wales' largest Toy & Train Sale arrives at Penarth Leisure Centre at Cogan, between 10.30am and 3pm on Saturday, January 5.

This will be the first such Cardiff event of the New Year but three further dates in 2019 are already booked at this venue, with the following one scheduled for Saturday, April 6.

Organizer Chris Dyer commented: "Our venue at Cogan is ideal for a toy & train sale, being large, easily accessible from all areas and, most importantly, has Cogan Railway Station virtually next door.

"We now offer in excess of 120 tables at the Cardiff show, and these are operated by more than 50 traders from all over the UK with the stock on offer, old and new, being quite unbeatable in quality and quantity as well as being great value-for-money with prices to suit all pockets.

"The Cardiff show is now firmly established on the national scene and traders travel from as far away as the north east of England, East Anglia and Cornwall and also from much closer to home. The show is always fully booked with traders weeks prior to the actual event and indeed, this one is no exception."

Traders present on the day will be buying as well as selling and exchanging, and will also happily offer free valuations on a wide range of toy and train related items and without any obligation; they welcome items being brought in for cash or exchange.

As always, refreshments will be available within the sale.

For more information contact 01643 702757/07966 694579 or visit the website chrisdyerfairs.co.uk.

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Everyone's a Tŷ Hafan winner at New Year's dip

PEOPLE turned out in huge numbers for the Tŷ Hafan Barry Island New Year's Day Dip.

The tradition is that those who take part need to run into the sea, dunk under three times and run out, and then repeat twice more. Not everyone achieved that, but Tŷ Hafan said simply entering the water was enough.

Local photographer Andy Wicks was on hand to capture the key moments of the day.

IMAGES by ANDY WICKS

Chilling out at Whitmore Bay!

WHITMORE Bay Surf Life Saving Club's Boxing Day dip took place in overcast conditions. Despite the cold, club members raced down the beach to embrace the chilly waters. IMAGES by ANDY WICKS

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The annual Porthcawl Christmas Day swim sees crowds brave the icy waters!

THE 54th Porthcawl Christmas Morning Swim brought the highest number of swimmers yet with over 1,300 registered swimmers braving the cold water.

ANDY WICKS (07855 374478) was on hand to capture the brave souls in action!

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Penarth-based seafaring charity thanks its volunteers

Some of the Challenge Wales volunteers celebrating a successful 2018.

LOCAL charity Challenge Wales thanked its amazing volunteers for their continued support at a festive volunteers' evening at the Crepe Escape restaurant in Penarth.

During the evening, Vicky Williams, trustee of Challenge Wales, shared many successful moments with volunteers.

These included the launch of a north Wales sail training programme on its second vessel *Adventure Wales,* the launch at the Volvo Ocean Race Stopover event with Skipper Dee Caffari of an accredited environmental project focusing on marine litter, and representing Wales and the UK at the Tall Ships Races overseas, crewed by young people from a variety of backgrounds.

In 2018, Challenge Wales volunteers donated thousands of hours of their time to work with young people on its two vessels: *Challenge Wales*/ Wales' Tall Ship and *Adventure Wales*.

Volunteers worked with the young people through accredited onboard learning activities, overseas, regional and local adventures enabling all abilities to develop and improve their employability skills.

Over the year, the charity had worked with young people who were in the care system, had learning disabilities, were looking to enhance their CV, were at risk of being homeless, undertaking their Duke of Edinburgh's Award, had an unemployed parent/ guardian, were recovering from substance misuse or suffering other disadvantage in their lives; many of which were supported by the charity's bursary scheme or fundraising activities.

Vicky said: "It's great that we have achieved so much this year, particularly with it being the Year of the Sea. Without our volunteers we wouldn't be the charity we are today."

Although many of the volunteers help on board *Challenge Wales* and *Adventure Wales*, the evening was an opportunity for trustees to thank all volunteers including those shore-side and behind the scenes who help with fundraising, maintenance and raising awareness of the charity.

Can you give a Home From Home?

Amanda Tidmarsh with Becky the Labrador and Bella the Yorkie

DOGS Trust's Home From Home scheme launched in 2015 and finds foster homes for dogs that need a little extra TLC and time out from the hustle and bustle of the rehoming centre, such as young puppies, older dogs and those who have lived in a home all their life.

Foster carer, Amanda Tidmarsh, who lives in Brynna, has fostered nine dogs since the summer, including Becky the Labrador and currently Bella the Yorkie, which have been resident at Dogs Trust Bridgend.

Amanda said: "Being a foster carer is so rewarding; seeing the change in the dog as they settle into a home environment and their little personalities shine through is amazing."

Zebb is another foster dog looking for a home. He is a one-year-old Collie with a huge heart who can live with children aged six and older and gets on well with other dogs, so could share his home with a canine friend.

For more information, visit www.dogstrust.org.uk.

Skills-based immigration system that ends free movement welcomed

ALUN Cairns, Member of Parliament for the Vale, has welcomed the Government's plan for a new single, skills-based immigration system, which marks the end of free movement once and for all.

A spokesperson said: "The system will be built around what people can contribute, rather than where they come from. For the first time in decades, the UK will have full control over who comes here, with everyone needing permission before they arrive.

"This will enable employers in the Vale of Glamorgan to have access to the skills they need from around the world, while ensuring net migration is reduced to sustainable levels.

There will be a new visa route for skilled workers, no cap for professions such as doctors and engineers and no limit on the number of international students coming to our world class universities – who will be able to stay for up to 12 months after graduation to find employment.

Mr Cairns said: "During the General Election, people in Barry and the rural Vale told me on the doorstep that they voted to take back control of our borders, and that is exactly what the future system will allow us to do."

"We will welcome talented and hardworking people who can support our economy, while bringing immigration down to sustainable levels and making sure we are training people up here in the Vale.

"For the first time in decades, we will have full control over who comes here."

Home Secretary Sajid Javid added: "We are delivering on the clear instruction to get control over our borders and will bring in a new system that works in the interest of the British people.

"It will be a single, skills-based immigration system built around the talent and expertise people can bring, rather where they come from – maximising the benefits of immigration and demonstrating the UK is open for business."

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Screen Talk's top 10 films of 2018

IT'S that time of year again as Screen Talk wraps up cinematic 2018 in a tidy bow and presents its top 10 films of the year.

It was a good year for film overall, so distilling the essence of the last 12 months has been nothing if not a fraught affair. After blood, sweat and tears, here are the 10 films that shone brightest in 2018.

10. ***The Shape of Water:*** Guillermo Del Toro's love letter to B-movies, the 2018 Best Picture Oscar winner was more than just the surface of a woman falling in love with a strange creature from the deep. Beneath it lay themes of connection, acceptance and so much more, the director artfully creating something beautiful and moving.

9. ***BlacKkKlansman*****:** Spike Lee's most charged, funny and politically astute film in a good long while, *BlacKkKlansman* was propelled by John Gordon Washington's superb lead performance as an African American detective who, with the help of his white colleague (well portrayed by Adam Driver), infiltrates the Ku Klux Klan in the 1970s. That its a true story in incredible enough, but Lee adds weight and fire to the inherent comedy to make a wondrous piece of work.

8. ***Avengers: Infinity War***: The culmination of 20 Marvel films, Infinity War was undoubtedly the largest-scale operation in history, attempting to shoehorn in countless characters, story strands and plot points into a 150-minute film. That writers/directors the Russo brothers achieved this with aplomb is a testament to their skills, but this was a film where the stakes were never higher, where we said farewell to characters and where we were left waiting impatiently to see how things will turn out in 2019's *Avengers: Endgame*. An incredible triumph of filmmaking, both within the comic book genre and in the wider cinematic world.

7. ***Tully*****:** Jason Reitman's return to form saw Charlize Theron portray a new mum, Marlo, whose struggle to keep her head above water sees the introduction of the titular night nanny. Tully's zest for life sees Marlo's life change considerably, and as the pair become fast friends that's when things start falling apart in a beautifully-portrayed film about the struggles of motherhood and the way live the lives we lead. Reitman and Theron, teaming up for a third time, were both in fine fettle here.

6. ***Phantom Thread:*** Perhaps overshadowed a little by Daniel Day-Lewis' announcement that this would be his last big-screen role (for now), Paul Thomas Anderson's captivating and engaging study of infatuation and love, set against the austere back drop of London's fashion houses in the mid-1950s, was a film that was precision-built to get under your skin. The performances across the board were superb, and yet again highlighted how supreme a talent Anderson is.

5. ***You Were Never Really Here:*** Lynne Ramsey's unflinching story of a veteran tracking down missing girls was as joyful as it sounds; however, this was cinema that dared you to look away, its central turn by Joaquin Phoenix as Joe chilling and exceptional. Featuring one of the best set-pieces of the year, as Joe lays siege to those holding a girl captive using only a hammer, show through the soundless buzz of CCTV cameras, Ramsey's film was provocative and vital.

4. ***First Man*****:** Damien Chazelle's sombre depiction of the race to the moon, told through the eyes of Neil Armstrong (played with restraint and subtlety by Ryan Gosling) was visually incredible, a mix of hand-held close up and majestic shots of the moon that added up to a slowly-paced, but never less than compelling film. Claire Foy's understated turn as Armstrong's wife was another quiet delight in a film full of them, a story of dedication and herculean effort.

3. ***American Animals*****:** Bart Layton's retelling of a group of young men who undertake a heist on a college library to steal and sell a rare book of paintings was given a jolt of electricity by his decision to cut between documentary talking heads of the real people involved and a dramatised version of events. No case of style over substance, Layton's film held a mirror up to today's society of 'want it, get it' and told a cautionary tale.

2. ***Sorry To Bother You:*** Boots Riley is better known as a musician and an activist, but thanks to this film, the term writer/director will be added to that list. A story of telemarketer Cassius (Lakeith Stanfield) who is told that to get ahead he should use his 'white voice' becomes a film that takes aim at many targets, and gets a direct hit with each one. The performances are excellent, and the film's lurch into dark, absurdist comedy is pitch-perfect.

1. ***A Quiet Place:*** Pegged as just another schlocky take on the horror genre, A Quiet Place was the year's biggest sensation, and an incredible breakout for writer/director/lead (along with his wife Emily Blunt) John Krasinski. Set in a world where creatures hunt humans using sound, the clever concept gave way to a film that delivered jump scares and emotion gut punches in equal measure, and takes the idea to far grander levels than you could think possible.

Gareth Jamieson

College's top accolade

CARDIFF and Vale College (CAVC) has become the first further education institution in Wales to be named a Showcase College by Microsoft.

Microsoft Showcase Colleges use the latest technologies to enhance learning and drive digital change among staff and students alike. As a Showcase College, CAVC will deliver personalised learning for students through the use of individual devices for each student. CAVC will also share ideas with other Showcase Colleges and host educational events designed to inspire young people about the potential technology has to transform their career potential.

Earlier this year, CAVC also opened its makerspace, {devel<>p}. The makerspace is designed to address the digital skills gap facing employers by boosting learners' skills in science, technology, engineering, the arts and maths (STEAM).

Cardiff and Vale College E-learning manager Hannah Mathias said: "It's a great achievement for CAVC to receive this award as it demonstrates how far we have come over the last two years. Microsoft has been very supportive and has helped the college to achieve its digital transformation vision."

CAVC principal Kay Martin said: "Cardiff and Vale College's mission is to be a leading educational business, delivering high quality education and training, outstanding results, skilled and employable people, excellent customer service, innovative business growth and continued investment that supports prosperous communities and a thriving economy."

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Milestone AGM for the Rhoose Lifeguards

RHOOSE Lifeguards recently held their 50th AGM at Fontygary Leisure Complex, combined with their annual award presentation evening and club Christmas party.

The evening opened with the AGM, voting in new officers for the 2018/19 season.

The club had a very successful 217/18 season and club chair Denise Cooper thanked all officers and members for the hard work, dedication and commitment they had put in over the last year, contributing to the success and the wonderful family atmosphere that has been created, taking the club from strength to strength.

Awards were presented to the following:

Nipper Awards: Most Improved Boy – Joel Hicks; Most Improved Girl – Elliana Phillips; Best Team Spirit – Robert Grice and Jessica Hole; Nippers Nipper – James Ashman; Overall Nipper – Xantia Hobrough.

Many of the Nippers gained Level 2 and Level 3 Surf Competency Awards and were presented with a certificate of achievement. More than 24 Nippers were awarded 'The Outstanding Achievement Award', which is presented to Nippers who compete in every individual event at all competitions throughout the year. Well done to all those who received this award.

Junior Awards: First Year Junior – Xantia Hobrough; Most Improved Paddler – Petros Grigoriau; Junior of the Year – Evie Wong; Skills and Technique – Kiera Harris.

Certificates were also presented to a number of Juniors, Seniors and Masters for gaining their Level 1 and Level 2 Beach Lifesaver Awards, NVBLQ Lifeguard Award, Masters Competition Awards and Surf Ski Competency.

Lifeguard of the Year went to Leighton Dutton and Sian Laycock for their hard work and commitment throughout the year.

The Margaret Cooper Trophy was presented to Norman and Amanda Lane for all their help with ski training.

The Sarah Thompson Beach Aggregate Award went to Evie Wong.

The Fonygary Pool Aggregate Award was presented to Sian Laycock.

The Toudic Cup Award (for the club handicapped swim) went to Ollie Wong for the Open and Xantia Hobrough for Nippers.

The Kevin Rowland Trophy, for most points accumulated in competitions throughout the year, was presented to Karen O'Donoghue-Harris.

Club captain Dave Cooper congratulated all those who won awards and certificates and thanked everyone who raced, coached and supported the club throughout the season, contributing to the club's success.

The evening concluded with a raffle, disco and buffet and the club wishes to thank all those who donated prizes and bought tickets.

JH

Venus lower than Uranus in January

THE Milky Way is above us, stretching from the north-western horizon to the south-eastern horizon.

This month, the winter constellations put on a great show with lots of bright stars vying for attention. The three main constellations overhead are Perseus, Cassiopeia and Auriga, yet eyes are drawn to the south-eastern portion of our sky, as this is where we find Taurus with its two prominent open clusters the Hyades and the Pleiades visible to the naked eye.

Observers can also find another object – the Crab Nebula; it requires a telescope and is a supernova. When viewed through small telescopes, it just appears as a small fuzzy cloud, and one could be forgiven for thinking, "Is that it?".

The name 'crab' refers to how the nebula looks when photographed using large telescopes. A supernova is produced by a star much larger than our Sun, in this case about 12 times its mass, that explodes. The nebula we see is the result of that explosion. We think the gas is expanding at a speed around 1,000 km/s and its current diameter is about 10 light years across.

Even though it is some 6,000 light years away, it was recorded by Chinese astronomers in AD 1054, and was visible during daylight hours for a period of several weeks.

The star has not been completely obliterated and what is left of the original object is something called a neutron star. Due to the explosion, it is now spinning about 30 times a second. As it spins, it produces beams of light from its poles and these are the 'pulses' detected by astronomers. This pulsar may be some 30-odd kilometres across.

This month we will see the first of the main meteor showers. The Quadrantids peak in the early hours of January 4 and can produce 100 shooting stars an hour. The radiant lies below the tail of the Plough, so turn your back on this part of the sky, sit or lie down, wrap up warm and watch the show.

In the early hours of January 21 we have a total eclipse of the Moon. If you are still awake at 0330 GMT you will be in time for the best bit at 0440 GMT the Moon will enter the darkest part of the Earth's shadow and totality begins and this phase ends at 0543 GMT. Look out during the total phase and see what colour the Moon is; orange, red or brown, or perhaps a mixture of all three.

On the mornings of January 1 and 2, the Moon appeared to be close to the planet Venus. On the evening of January 14, it lies below the planet Uranus; on January 17, it will be in the constellation of Taurus near to the Hyades star cluster. On January 20, it will lie below the bright star Pollux in the constellation of Gemini.

If you go out to observe and think about how cold it is this month, remember on January 3, the Earth is closest to the Sun!

Visit www.barryastronomical.wordpress.com for details.

Dave Powell, Barry Astronomical Society

Birthday surprise for Basil

THE Vale of Glamorgan Ploughing & Hedging Society held a surprise birthday party for one of its founder members, Basil George, on his 90th birthday at the Six Bells, Penmark, recently.

Society members, friends and family gathered for the occasion and enjoyed a buffet meal in the company of good friends.

The photograph shows the founding members of the Society: Back row (left to right) Jeremy Jacob, John Thomas, Julian Radcliffe and Edward Thomas; front row (left to right) Andrew Studley, Basil George, David James and Rhys Morgan.

editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk
01446 774484

England for the Vale

I AM concerned by the words of Ross England's spokesperson (and thus Mr England's words).

Who controls the funding of the WAG? Westminster.Who's in Government at Westminster? The Tories.

Do they blame the WAG for the underfunding of services in Wales? Yes.

You wouldn't hear a peep out of them if the Tories controlled the WAG.

The Tories, in their single-minded pursuit [GEM note: it was a Tory-Lib colatiion from 2010-15] of austerity, have savagely reduced funding to a widespread number of organisations across the UK. Austerity has been shown not to work, by many reputable economists worldwide.

Austerity is a political choice, not an economic reason. The Tories apparently don't understand the word 'irony'.

Tim Jefferson, Llantwit Major.

What's on, and where…

Councillor's surgery

CONSERVATIVE councillor Carolyn Webster is holding a surgery for residents of the Newcastle ward, Bridgend on Saturday, January 5, between 10am and 12pm in the library at Halo Recreation Centre (The Rec), Bridgend. No appointment is necessary.

Cllr Webster said: "If any resident would like to discuss any matter which they think I might be able to help them with and this time is inconvenient, I can also be contacted on 07743574786 or by email on cllr.carolyn.webster@bridgend.gov.uk."

Friends of the Earth meeting

THE next meeting of Barry & Vale Friends of the Earth will be on Tuesday, January 8, at 7.30pm in the Castle Hotel, Jewel Street, Barry, because the first Tuesday in the month was New Year's Day.

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Take notice that JD Wetherspoon plc has made an application under Section 34 of the Licensing Act 2003 to vary a premises licence for the Sir Samuel Romilly, Romilly Buildings, Broad Street, Barry, CF62 7AU. The application seeks to amend condition 5 in Annex 3 on the premises licence in respect of the provision of door supervisors. There are no other changes to the Premises Licence. The postal address of the relevant licensing authority is set out below and a record of the application may be inspected there during normal office hours. Anyone who wishes to make representations regarding this application must give notice in writing to the Licensing Department, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU or by e-mail to licensing@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk. Written representations must be received no later than Thursday, 17th January 2019. It is an offence, under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, to knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application which, upon conviction, carries an unlimited fine.
Dated 20th December 2018

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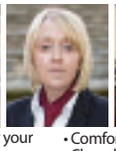

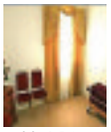

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Family Notices

DREW
Michael

Peacefully on the 24th December 2018, Michael passed away at Cheltenham General Hospital. Loved son of Rosemary and Trevor; and partner of Cathi.

He will be sadly missed by all his loving family and friends.

Resting at W.A. Brown Funeralcare, Llantwit Major until the service at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend on Friday, 11th January 2019 at 10am.

Flowers and donations welcomed in Michael's memory. Donations can be sent to the Leukaemia and Intensive Chemotherapy Fund, The LINC Office, Haematology Department, Cheltenham General Hospital, Sandford Road, Cheltenham, GL53 7AN.

GUEST
Barbara Elizabeth

Peacefully on 16th December 2018, Barbara passed away at Morriston Hospital. Much loved mother of Simon, Andrew, Hugh and Hilary; and affectionate mother-in-law to Anna, Kate and Ruth. Loving grandma to Rhian, Lowri and Eleri; Isabella and Lara; Lucy and Rosie; and great grandmother to Barney and Albie.

She will be sadly missed by all her loving family and friends.

Resting at W.A. Brown Funeralcare, Llantwit Major until the service at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend on Tuesday, 15th January 2019 at 1.15pm.

Family flowers only, donations in Barbara's memory welcomed to the NSPCC, Weston House, 42 Curtain Road, London, EC2A 3NH.

JENKINS
Elizabeth (Libby) (*née* Davies)

Peacefully on 24th December 2018, Libby, beloved wife of Dave. Much loved mum of Julie and Deborah, adored nan and great nan.

Libby will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service in the Chapel of Rest on Thursday, 10th January 2019 at 2pm, followed by committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium.

Flowers may be sent or donations in lieu, if so desired, for Cancer Research UK c/o the funeral director.

EVANS
Allan

Suddenly on 25th December 2018, aged 73 years. Devoted husband to Gaynor, loving father to Lee, Meloney and Hayley. Cherished grandfather and great grandfather to all his grandchildren.

Allan will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, until the service in our Chapel of Rest on Monday, 14th January at 11.30am, followed by a interment at Barry Cemetery.

Family flowers only, donations can be made in memory of Allan to The R.N.L.I at the Service.

CLOSE
Kenneth Thomas

Peacefully on 24th December at Springbank Care Home, Barry, Kenneth sadly passed away. Beloved husband of the late Betty and much loved dad of Diane and Ian, Ray and Carol and their families.

'At Home With The Lord'.

Kenneth is resting in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, Court Road, Barry until a service of thanksgiving at Bethel Baptist Church, Harbour Road, Barry on Friday, 11th January at 10.30am, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry.

Family floral tributes only please.

Further enquiries please telephone 01446 407962.

ST CLAIR
Iris Maureen

Passed away on 23rd December 2018, aged 90. Much loved mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

Funeral service at 11am on Friday, 18th January 2019 at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry.

VOSS
Jean

Peacefully in her sleep on 17th December 2018 in the Hazlehurst Nursing Home, Penarth, aged 93. Wife and partner of Vic for over 60 years. Fond mother of Roy, Shane and Ingrid. Loving Granny to Maddy, Jake, Toby, Bryn, and Nye, Much loved by all the wider family.

Funeral at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Memorial Park and Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 9PX on Monday, 14 January 2019 at 3pm. Informal simple cremation, no service. All welcome (including children).

Family flowers only, please. A suggestion for donation in lieu would be Macmillan Nurses.

Enquiries to James Summers Funeralcare, Lavernock Road, Penarth, CF64 5UP. Tel. 029 2070 5687.

Afterwards there will be a buffet at the Lamb and Flag, Wick. CF71 7QE. Tel. 01656 890278.

All welcome (whether or not attending Crematorium and including children).

MASON
Esme Rosemary (*née Dawe*)

Suddenly on 20th December 2018 at Llandough Hospital, Esme, aged 80 years. Beloved wife of the late Eric much loved mum of Gordon, Brett, Sarah and Richard. A loved mother-in-law, grandmother and great grandmother.

Esme will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service on Wednesday, 9th January 2019 at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry at 2pm.

Flowers may be sent or donations in lieu, if so desired, for The Removers Benevolent Association (RBA) c/o the Funeral director.

WHITAKER
Jennie (*née* Morris)

After a short illness on 23rd December 2018, aged 89 years at Llandough Hospital. Loving wife to Brian, dear mum to Anne and Rose, fond mother-in-law to Martin.

Jennie will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, until the service at All Saints' Church, Barry on Friday, 18th January at 1pm, followed by a committal at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium.

Flowers may be sent directly to the funeral home or donations in memory of Jennie may be made Directly to Macular Society, PO Box 1870, Andover, SP10 9AD.

HIGGS
Derek

Peacefully on Wednesday, 26th December after a long illness at his home in Cowbridge, aged 88 years. Beloved husband of Pamela, father to Chris, Phil and Mike, father-in-law to Andrea, Cheryl and Sue. Grandfather to Andrew, Robert, Nick, Bethan and Megan. Derek will be sadly missed by all.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Thursday, 10th January 2019, service and cremation 2pm at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. The family request no flowers or black ties to be worn, donations if desired, to the Air Ambulance c/o the funeral director.

BRIGGS
Norma Margaret

Peacefully on 18th December, aged 93 years. Loving mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

Will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Tuesday, 8th January, service 1.15pm at St Curig's Church, Porthkerry, followed by interment at Porthkerry Cemetery.

No flowers by request.

JAMES
Thomas (Tom)

Peacefully passed away on 25th December at Holme Towers, aged 72. Much loved husband of Lynne and much loved dad to Simon and Stuart. Very much loved grandad and great grandad.

Funeral service on 4th January 2019 at 1pm at Cardiff & Vale Crematorium Port Road East, Barry.

Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu to Holme Towers. Please wear bright colours.

McKANE
Gerrard

It is with a broken heart the family announce the passing of Ged. A beloved husband and soul mate to wife Carol, who passed quietly away on the 19th December 2018, with his loving wife Carol (babe), nephew Don, niece Wendy and family at his side at Princess of Wales Hospital.

He will be sadly missed by Terry, Angie and Ged's loving family and friends at home and in Liverpool.

Resting at W.A. Brown Funeralcare, Llantwit Major until the service at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend on Monday, 14th January 2019 at 1.15pm.

The family asks that the congregation wear their football shirts to the service in Ged's memory.

GARDINER
Dilys May

Dilys sadly but peacefully passed away on 15th December 2018. Beloved wife of the late Cecil, loving mother of Malcolm, mother in law of Sue and grandmother of Kelly and Zak.

She will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Funeral service to be held on Thursday, 10th January 2019 at St. Brides Church, St. Brides-Super-Ely at 12 noon, followed by interment in the churchyard.

Flowers are welcomed and can be sent to Green Willow Funerals, 21a Station Road, Dinas Powys, CF64 4DE.

LEWIS
Allen

After an illness bravely borne on 28th December 2018, aged 75 years. Loving husband to Sandra, amazing dad to Denise and Jane. Cherished grandad and gang-gang to all his grandchildren.

Allen will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, until the service in our Chapel of Rest on Monday, 14th January at 3pm, followed by a committal service in Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium. Family flowers only. Donations may be made in memory of Allen in favour of Marie Curie Cancer Care at the service.

Acknowledgements

FARMER
Eric John

The family would like to thank everyone for their condolences, attendance at dad's funeral and the generous donations to the Kidney Wales Foundation.

WATKINS
Catherine (*née* Rowlands) B.E.M

The family of Cath would like to thank all family and friends for their messages, kind donations and their presence at the celebration of Cath's life which was very much appreciated.

Thanks to Bethel Church, Rhoose. Special thanks to W. James & Sons Funeral Directors and Eryl Surgery for their continued health care. Also the staff on Ward C1 at UHW.

Thanks to John Durbin, Celebrant, who carried out a most fitting service. A big thank you to Jane Hutt for your lovely words at the funeral. Thank you so much to Jamie Bagnall and Ryan for everything they have done. Thanks to Karen, Joanne and Sam for serving behind the bar.

Cath's family would like to say how proud they are of her for receiving a B.E.M. in the Queen's New Year's Honours List.

In Memory

IN MEMORY
GUTHRIE
Yvonne

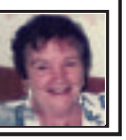
6th January 2018

On 6th January you passed away, it broke our hearts to lose you but you did not go alone, for part of us went with you the day that God called you home.

Miss you darling, your husband Malcolm, daughters Deborah and Susan and all the grandchildren and great granddaughter Darcie, who looks to the stars for Nannie G xxx

In Memory

BURGE
Grace



'I am the swift uplifting rush of quiet birds in circled flight.'

A year has passed without you, though we still feel you with us, we miss you every day.

Love always x

ROWLANDS
Cathy B.E.M

02/01/1975 - 11/12/2018

On 2nd January you should be celebrating your 44th birthday with us. Sadly we can only celebrate with your spirit. Have a lovely birthday our angel.

All our love always and forever.

Mum and Dad, Chlo, Sam, Josh, Jake and Matty, Helen and family, Sian and family *xxx*

LEWIS
Gwilym Wynne

Treasured memories of Wynne who passed away on 3rd January 2003. Loving husband of Colleen, devoted father of Wynne and Michele, ever remembered bampy and father-in-law.

Always loved and forever in our thoughts.

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Hardy souls brave the Ty Hafan New Year's dip

THE Ty Hafan New Year's Day Dip drew thousands to Barry Island and ANDY WICKS was on hand to capture the day.

On and Off The Turf with Brian Lee

THE Coral Welsh Grand National at Chepstow on Thursday, December 27, was won by the 3-1 favourite *Elegant Escape* but the loudest cheers of the day came in the previous race, The 'Smart Money's On Coral ' Handicap Hurdle when Llancarfan's Isabel Williams, aged 21, riding her mother Catherine's six-year-old French-bred *Virginia Chick* held on by half-a-length to beat the favourite *Truckers Lodge,* ridden by Pembrokeshire's Lorcan Williams.

Isabel, the reigning Welsh champion point-to-point rider, who was chalking-up her eighth winner under Rules said: "That went really well for us. He's a lovely horse and I could hear the crowd cheering once I jumped the last. It was just great to be here today.''

She added: "I've only managed to win a few point-to-point in my mum's colours so it was nice to get this one."

Her sister Ellie led up the horse so it was a real family occasion, especially as her grandmother Mary Evans, a former leading rider between-the-flags, was also present. Like her son Evan, Mary, as Mary Williams, has also ridden at Chepstow Racecourse.

Isabel's mother Catherine trains the point-to-pointers that Isabel rides but *Virginia Chick* is trained by her father Evan Williams, who said: "I don't know what to say without making a fool of myself. I'm delighted, over the moon in fact, and I'm lucky to be in a position to give her rides on horses which suit her. But I can't tell you how hard she really works in the yard.''

Virginia Chick was the second winner of the day for Evan as he had won the opening The Get Super Smart Boosts At Coral Maiden Hurdle with *Present Value* a 13-2 chance, who ridden by stable jockey Adam Wedge came home seven lengths ahead of *Hill Sixteen*.

On Boxing Day, at Market Rasen, Evan's *Cesar Collonges* a 7-1 chance, with Wedge in the saddle beat the odds-on *Sir Egbert* while at Wincanton James Bowen, riding *Potters Corner* for Ogmore's Christian Williams, came in at odds of 18-1.

It was at this meeting that Lorcan Williams landed a double for Paul Nicholls with *Posh Trish* and *Flic Ou Voyou*.

Another Welsh trainer to saddle a winner over the Christmas holiday was Bridgend's John Flint, who at Kempton Park last Thursday saw his *Eddiemaurice*, a 9-1 shot partnered by Nick Scholfield, win the closing handicap hurdle at odds of 9-1.

Cowbridge's Byron Moorcroft's good start to the new point-to-point season came to a halt at the Carmarthenshire Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases held at Ffos Las Racecourse on Saturday, December 22.

In the mares and fillies race he pulled up on *Inner Loop*; in the open maiden race his mount *Dino Boy* was a last fence faller, then on *Union Jack D'Ycy* in the Timico Open race he finished an 18 lengths runner-up to *Bally River Boy*.

He then pulled-up his mount *Shes A Gangster* in the restricted and then finished third on *Kensington Hll* behind *TheGirlFromMilan* and *Blazing Tom* in the Conditions race.

The man in form at the meeting was Bradley Gibbs as he won the Mares Maiden race on *Highway Jewell*, the Restricted Open on Captain McGinley and the Conditions race on *TheGirlFromMilan*.

Highway Jewell, a four-year-old chesnut filly the youngest of the seven starters, finished alone after the early leader *Jemma's Gift* had refused. *Jemma Gift's* partner, the leading amateur rider Gina Andrews, apparently earned the wrath of the stewards and was fined £150 for not pulling up a beaten and tired horse.

His second winner came when the odds-on *CaptainMcGinley* ploughed through the heavy ground to come home a distance ahead of *Honourable Henry* in the four-runner Restricted.

In the ConditionsRace, the odds-on *TheGirlFromMilan,* handy throughout, won by 10 lengths from *Blazing Tom* after surviving a last fence blunder.

Winning trainer David Gibbs, Bradley's father, who owing to work missed seeing the first of his son's wins ,said: "I've trained a lot of no-hopers in my time but its now nice to have some good horses to work with.

TIMICO MIXED OPEN RACE

THE Timico Mixed Open race went to the Cotswold Vale invader *Bally River Boy*, a seven-year-old chesnut gelding who under James King, 23, won by 18 lengths from the Byron Moorcroft-partnered *Union Jack D'ycy.*

Bradley Gibbs' mount *Moral Hazard* the 5-4 favourite finished a further 10 lengths away in third spot.

Winning trainer Jake Slatter, who was full of praise for the organisers in staging the meeting under difficult conditions, said: "*Bally River Boy* can be a bit quirky at times and has been known to drop me.''

Winning rider King, who has ridden around 70 winners, said: "He's a lovely horse he did a grand job and he's just super.''

The closest finish of the day came in the opening Carmarthenshire Hunt Members' race in which the eight-year-old *Manhattan Mead* got home by a neck from the favourite Hospital with *Jack The Hat* a further half-a-length away in third place.

However, Hospital's owner/rider Elen Nicholas failed to weigh-in and was fined £60.

Manhattan Mead is owned by Gwyn Phillips and Paul Hamer, who also trains the horse and was ridden by Ben Jones, the son of Dai Jones MFH of the Carmarthenshire Hunt and who like the winning trainer Hamer is a former Welsh champion point-to-point rider.

Ben, aged 19, was chalking up his 20th success and the odds are that we should be hearing more about this talented young rider in the future.

There were 11 starters for the Open Maiden Race For Horses And Geldings and this went to the Mickey Bowen-trained *Hidden Cargo* who, under Hereford-born Peter Bryan, beat the Llangeinor Hunt-qualified *Guiding Stars*, partnered by Sean Quinton.

Mickey, whose younger brother James later in the day won the Garrad Silver Cup Handicap Chase at Ascot on the 33-1 outsider *Valtor* for Nicky Henderson, said of the Irish-bred Hidden Cargo: "He's an open horse running in a maiden.We will probably aim him at an hunter chase here next year or the Dunraven Bowl at Chepstow in April.''

Six horses faced the starter for the Four ,Five and Six Year Olds JRL Group Flat Race over two miles and this was won by 10-1 chance *Dr Kananga*, who under Gloucestershire's Danny Burton won by six lengths from the odds-on *Geordie* ridden by Peter Bryan.

Dr Kananga is owned by Ben Clarke and is qualified with the Seavington Hunt.

FROM FIRST TO LAST

SPARE a thought for Bridgend trainer John Flint and his amateur rider Imogen Mathias who was having her first ride in the Amateur Riders Handicap at Chelmsford on December 20.

Imogen, riding Flint's *Winklemann,* an 8-1 chance, passed the winning post an easy six lengths 'winner' ahead of 40-1 chance *Holy Tiber*. However, following an objection by the clerk of the scales when Imogen weighed in her mount was placed last!

During the finish of the race, her weight cloth slipped and she lost some of her lead weights which meant after weighing out at the correct weight of 10st, 10lbs, she weighed in at just 8st, 10lb.

An understanding Mr Flint said: "It's a bit unfortunate as that was her first ride. I have seen this sort of thing happen in jump racing but seldom on the flat.''

EVAN'S TAUNTON WINNER

RAILWAY Junkie **ended the year in fine style for Llancarfan's Evan Williams and stable jockey Adam Wedge when landing the Age UK Somerset Handicap Chase at Taunton on Sunday, December 30.**

The five-year-old won easily by two and three quarter lengths from *Broughtons Rhythm*.

Earlier in the day,Williams had seen his previous winner *Gwalia* beaten by three parts of a length by Beltor, ridden by TJ O'Brien, and a 5-1 chance. *Beltor,* racing for the first time in nearly two years, is trained by former point-to-point rider Robert Stephens at Chepstow.

CHRISTIAN'S GOOD START TO THE YEAR

OGMORE by Sea's Christian Williams, who was at one time Evan Williams' assistant trainer, got off to a good start to 2019 when both the horses he sent to Fakenham won their respective races.

First off the mark was eight-year-old *Sideways* who, under amateur rider Tom O'Brien, landed the Norfolk's Finest Drinkers Amateur Riders' Handicap Chase when coming home five lengths ahead of the bottom-weighted Stonebrigg Legend.

Then, later in the day, five-year-old *StricklyADancer*, ridden by David England,took the Sky Sports Racing Now Live Handicap Hurdle by two-and-a-half lengths from recent winner *Todd*.

The former went off the 11-4 favourite and the latter was returned at odds of 9-2.

Bridgend Bridge Club news

THE latest results for Bridgend Bridge Club are as follows:

On Wednesday, December 19: First, John Evans and Steve Burgoyne; second, Gareth Jenkins and Mike Williams; third Norma and David Newman. The winners on handicap were Gareth Jenkins and Mike Williams.

On Thursday, December 20: First, Glyn Williams and Joan Ralph; second, Stewart Norton and Ivor Hicks; third David Newman and Mike Williams. The winners on handicap were Glyn Williams and Joan Ralph.

On Friday, December 21: First, Glyn Williams and John Beard; second, Irene Thomas and Marjorie Morris; third, Colin and Hazel Heard. The winners on handicap were Glyn Williams and John Beard.

On Friday, December 28: First, Keith Davison and Irene Thomas; second, Tony Ratcliff and Julian Pottage; third, Glyn Williams and Irene Wickham. The winners on handicap were Keith Davison and Irene Thomas.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings at Nolton Church Hall. Play is scheduled to start at 7pm, to enable a prompt start, it helps if players arrive at least 10 minutes early.

On Thursday afternoons at 2pm, again at Nolton Church Hall, there is a gentle bridge session when help is available with the bidding.

All sessions are played in a friendly manner, visitors and new members are always welcome.

GJ

Seniors still battling against the elements!

THE persistent wet weather continued to disrupt St Mary's Golf Club's senior section's schedule over the Christmas season.

Nevertheless, the hardiest of their members managed to get in a couple of team Stableford competitions over a reduced course of just 12 holes.

The first of these was played in a four-ball format with the best three of the four scores recorded at each hole. Despite heavy overnight rain the course remained playable with plenty of pace on the greens.

With 62 points, Roger Hatton, Fred Furby, Eddie Fothergill and Section Chairman, Gordon Martin, claimed the victory.

In their second competition of the week, this one played in three balls with the better of two scores counting, Martin once again helped amass a winning score of 54 points, supported on this occasion by Owen Maund and Graham Jones.

NL

Mark Wallace takes up post as Glamorgan's new director of cricket

FORMER Glamorgan captain Mark Wallace has been appointed as the club's new director of cricket.

The 37-year-old will succeed Hugh Morris, who left the role to concentrate on his position as chief executive at the club.

Wallace, who has worked for the Professional Cricketers' Association (PCA) since retiring following the 2016 season will start his new role on 1st February 2019.

The wicketkeeper batsman spent 18 years in the first team and captained Glamorgan from 2013 to 2015, playing 264 first-class games. During his career he amassed 15,429 runs over all forms including 17 centuries and took 944 catches.

He was elected as the PCA's chairman in 2013 and was re-appointed to serve a second two-year term before taking up a permanent position with the organisation after his retirement as a player.

Wallace is also an ECB Level 4 qualified coach, has a Master's Degree in Sport, Culture and Society from Cardiff Metropolitan University and has worked in both written and broadcast media.

Mark said: "I'm delighted to have been given the opportunity to come back to Glamorgan and I'm looking forward to working with a young squad of players and alongside a talented coaching team.

"However, it won't just be a question of working closely with the first team. We need to ensure we maximise all our resources and that means improving Welsh cricket in general and developing closer relationships with the clubs and Cardiff MCCU.

"I'm extremely grateful to the PCA for everything they've done for me and the past two years has been a brilliant learning experience within a high quality organisation.

"Having spent a few years outside of Glamorgan, I believe I can come into the club with new ideas and a fresh perspective to lead the club in the right direction."

Glamorgan chairman, Gareth Williams, said: "Mark was the standout candidate for the position following a rigorous recruitment process which brought interest from around the globe.

"We were looking for someone who could lead cricket activities, recruitment, contracts, players and our development programmes, and also work closely with local clubs and universities and he ticked all those boxes.

"He has an in-depth knowledge of both the club and professional game in Wales and the culture within Glamorgan having spent years here as a player and captain.

"Through his work with the PCA he has gained experience outside Glamorgan and developed positive relationships with players and coaches across the country.

"He is a fantastic communicator as shown by his time here as captain and his broadcast work and he is a passionate Welshman who has always had the best interests of the club at heart.

"We're very confident he will drive Glamorgan forward and help bring success to the club both on and off the pitch."

Got a sports story, match report or item of interest?
Then get in touch with us - email
sport@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Rugby League trials this month

WALES Rugby League will be holding two trials for their Student international side that will compete in the Student Four Nations Championships in Scotland this summer.

The first trial will be at the official WRL training base of Deeside Leisure Centre on Sunday, January 20 from 10.30am, then a week later in south Wales, Sunday, January 27, there is a further trial at the Caerphilly Centre of Sporting Excellence in Ystrad Mynach from 2.30pm.

From these trials, a squad of 30 will be selected. This squad will then train and play two or three warm up games, after which the final squad of 20 players will be selected to participate in the Student Four Nations.

Wales Students' head coach Paul Emanuelli said: "The overall goal for 2019 is to improve on last year's performance where we finished third in the Four Nations. The programme that we now, gives us more time to fully prepare players, and having trials at both ends of Wales, gives lads from all areas the opportunity to represent their country."

Trialists need to send their details through to Wales Rugby League before Friday, January 18 for the north trial and Friday, January 25, for the south trial.

Please submit your information at https://walesrugbyleague.co.uk/student_registration

Evidence of eligibility to play for Wales must also be proved. For Wales Students, players must either be born in Wales, have Welsh parents or grandparents, or must be studying full-time at a Welsh education establishment. Trialists must be aged 17 or over by September 1, 2019.

IG

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15 15 JEEP CHEROKEE 2.0 CRD Limited 5dr 4WD, sat nav, reverse camera, cruise, privacy glass, white, full leather **£13495**

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17 17 RANGE ROVER VELAR 2.0 D HSE 5dr Automatic 4x4, Land Rover warranty July 2020, sat nav, reverse camera, head up display, rear DVD, silver, full leather **£46995**

16 66 RANGE ROVER EVOQUE 2.0 TD4 SE 5dr Automatic 4WD, Land Rover warranty Nov 2019, 18"alloys, privacy glass, heated seats, white, full leather **£24995**

16 66 AUDI S3 2.0 TFSI Quattro 5dr S-Tronic, Audi warranty Dec 2019, sat nav, Bluetooth, heated seats, full leather, choice, from **£23995**

15 65 NISSAN X-TRAIL 1.6 DCI Tekna 5dr 4WD (7-Seater), sat nav, reverse camera, choice, full leather **£15495**

16 16 VW GOLF 2.0 TSI BlueMotionTech R 5dr 4WD (300bhp), VW warranty June 2019, xenons, cruise, 15k, choice **£20995**

16 16 HYUNDAI SANTA FE 2.2 CRDI BlueDrive Premium SE 5dr Automatic (7-Seater), Hyundai warranty July 2021, sat nav, pan roof, heated seats, reverse camera, 19"alloys, 21k, beige with full leather **£21495**

14 14 VOLVO XC60 2.4 D4 181 SE Lux Nav AWD 5dr, pan roof, sat nav, black, full leather **£15995**

16 66 AUDI A4 ALLROAD 3.0 TDI Quattro Sport Estate S-Tronic, Audi warranty Dec 2019, sat nav, 18"alloys, privacy glass, 21k, white, full leather **£26995**

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15 64 BMW 420 DXDRIVE M Sport Gran Coupe 5dr automatic, pro sat nav, 19"alloys, Harman kardon, full leather, 26k, met black **£19995**

15 65 BMW 420 DXDrive Luxury 2dr Coupe Automatic, sat nav, heated seats, 39k, grey, full leather **£17995**

16 16 BMW 420 DXDRIVE M Sport Gran Coupe 5dr automatic, 19"alloys, widescreen sat nav, 23k, met grey, full leather **£21995**

16 16 BMW X1 2.0 DXDrive M Sport 5dr, BMW warranty June 2019, sat nav, heated seats, 24k, met white **£19995**

16 66 BMW X3 2.0 DXDrive M Sport 5dr Automatic, BMW warranty Dec 2019, sat nav, 19"alloys, grey, full leather **£21995**

15 15 BMW X4 D XDRIVE XLine 4dr Automatic, sat nav, pdc, 26k, red, full leather **£21995**

15 65 BMW X4 2.0 DXDrive M Sport 5dr Automatic, sat nav, 19"alloys, privacy glass, black, full leather **£20995**

16 66 FORD EDGE 2.0 TDCI 210 Titanium 5dr Powershift 4WD, Ford warranty Oct 2019, sat nav, cruise, 19"alloys, reverse camera, black **£22495**

16 66 HYUNDAI SANTA FE 2.2 CRD Premium 5dr Automatic (7-Seater), Hyundai warranty Sept 2021, sat nav, 18"alloys, cruise, privacy glass, 18k, black, full leather **£20995**

16 16 HYUNDAI SANTA FE 2.2 CRDI BlueDrive Premium SE 5dr Automatic (7-Seater), Hyundai warranty July 2021, sat nav, pan roof, heated seats, reverse camera, 19"alloys, 21k, beige with full leather **£21495**

16 66 HYUNDAI SANTA FE 2.2 CRD BlueDrive Premium SE 5dr Automatic (7-Seater), Hyundai warranty Jan 2021, sat nav, pan roof, reverse camera, black, 19"alloys, 9k, full leather **£23995**

16 66 HYUNDAI TUCSON 2.0 CRD Premium 4WD 5dr Automatic, Hyundai warranty Dec 2019, sat nav, reverse camera, 19"alloys, 18k, grey, full leather **£19495**

17 67 JAGUAR F-PACE 3.0 DV6 S AWD 5dr Automatic, Jaguar warranty Jan 2021, sat nav, 20"alloys, reverse camera, 9k, black, full leather **£39995**

15 15 JEEP CHEROKEE 2.0 CRD Limited 5dr 4WD, sat nav, reverse camera, cruise, privacy glass, white, full leather **£13495**

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16 16 JEEP RENEGADE 2.0 M-Jet II Longitude 5dr 4WD, Jeep warranty Sept 2019, sat nav, pan roof, 17"alloys, blue, 22k **£13995**

15 65 KIA SORENTO 2.2 CRD KX3 5dr Automatic AWD (7-Seater), Kia warranty Dec 2022, pan roof, reverse camera, 21k, white, full leather **£22995**

18 68 KIA SORENTO 2.2 CRDI GT-Line S 5dr Automatic (7-Seater), Kia warranty Sept 2025, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, only 527 miles, grey, full leather **£34995**

16 16 KIA SPORTAGE 1.6 T GDI GT-Line AWD 5dr, Kia warranty Aug 2023, sat nav, 19"alloys, full leather, choice **£16995**

16 66 KIA SPORTAGE 1.6 T-GDI GT-Line 5dr Automatic AWD, Kia warranty Sept 2023, sat nav, reverse camera, heated seats, 24k, black, full leather **£18995**

15 65 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDI KX-3 5dr 4WD, Kia warranty Oct 2022, pan roof, reverse camera, 31k, black, full leather **£14295**

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16 66 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRD KX-2 5dr Automatic 4WD, KIA warranty Oct 2023, sat nav, reverse camera, cruise, 24k, silver **£16995**

16 66 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDI First Edition 5dr AWD Automatic, Kia warranty Oct 2023, pan roof, sat nav, 19"alloys, reverse camera, 24k, white, full leather **£21495**

17 67 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRD GT-Line S 5dr Automatic, Kia warranty Oct 2024, sat nav, pan roof, reverse camera, 13k, red, full leather **£22995**

15 65 LAND ROVER DISCOVERY SPORT 2.0 TD4 180 HSE Black 5dr Automatic 4x4 7-Seater, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, 20"alloys, 26k, orange, full leather **£26995**

17 17 LAND ROVER DISCOVERY SPORT 2.0 TD4 SE 5dr Tech Pack Automatic (7 Seater), sat nav, 10k, black, half-leather **£27495**

15 15 LAND ROVER DISCOVERY SPORT 2.2 SD4 HSE 5dr Automatic (7-Seater) 4x4, sat nav, pan roof, reverse camera, black pack, 28k, met red, full leather **£24995**

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16 66 MERCEDES CLA45 2.0 AMG 4dr 4WD Automatic, Mercedes warranty Oct 2019, sat nav, 19"alloys, cruise, 16k, black, half-leather **£30795**

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14 14 NISSAN JUKE 1.6 DIG-T Nismo 5dr 4WD CVT Automatic (197bhp), sat nav, reverse camera, Bluetooth, 18"alloys, white **£10995**

12 62 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 DCI Tekna 5dr 4WD, pan roof, sat nav, bose, heated seats, black **£9995**

15 15 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 DCI Tekna 5dr 4WD, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, white, full leather **£12495**

16 16 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 DCI N-Connecta 5dr 4WD, Nissan warranty April 2019, sat nav, reverse camera, heated seats, 16k, black **£14495**

15 65 NISSAN X-TRAIL 1.6 DCI Tekna 5dr 4WD (7-Seater), sat nav, reverse camera, choice, full leather **£15495**

17 67 RANGE ROVER EVOQUE 2.0 SI4 290 Autobiography 5dr Automatic, Land Rover warranty Nov 2020, sat nav, 20"alloys, reverse camera, grey, 7k, full leather **£40995**

15 65 RANGEROVER EVOQUE 2.0 TD4 HSE Dynamic 5dr, sat nav, reverse camera, 20"alloys, 20k, red, full leather **£27995**

15 15 RANGEROVER EVOQUE 2.2 SD4 Pure 5dr 4WD Automatic, pan roof, heated seats, 36k, met red, full leather **£20995**

16 66 RANGE ROVER EVOQUE 2.0 TD4 SE 5dr Automatic 4WD, Land Rover warranty Nov 2019, 18"alloys, privacy glass, heated seats, white, full leather **£24995**

16 66 RANGE ROVER VOGUE 3.0 TDV6 Vogue 4dr Automatic, Land Rover warranty Sept 2019, pan roof, sat nav, grey, full leather **£45995**

17 17 RANGE ROVER VELAR 2.0 D HSE 5dr Automatic 4x4, Land Rover warranty July 2020, sat nav, reverse camera, head up display, rear DVD, silver, full leather **£46995**

16 16 VW GOLF 2.0 TSI BlueMotionTech R 5dr 4WD (300bhp), VW warranty June 2019, xenons, cruise, 15k, choice **£20995**

16 66 VW GOLF 2.0 TSI R 5dr DSG 4WD, VW warranty Nov 2019, sat nav, heated seats, 18k, choice **£23495**

15 65 VW TIGUAN 2.0 TDI BMT Tech Match 4Motion 5dr, sat nav, 17"alloys, white **£13995**

16 66 VW TIGUAN 2.0 TDI BMT SE NAV 4Motion 5dr DSG, VW warranty Dec 2019, sat nav, 18"alloys, cruise, 5k, choice **£22495**

16 16 VOLVO XC60 2.4 D5 220 SE 5dr Automatic 4WD, Volvo warranty April 2019, sat nav, privacy glass, white, half-leather **£20995**

14 14 VOLVO XC60 2.4 D4 181 SE Lux Nav AWD 5dr, pan roof, sat nav, black, full leather **£15995**

15 15 VOLVO XC60 2.4 D5 SE Lux 5dr Automatic 4WD, sat nav, heated seats, 28k, blue, full leather **£19995**

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15 65 BMW 116 D Efficient Dynamics Plus 5dr, sat nav, Bluetooth, cruise, dab, choice **£10995**

15 64 BMW M135i 3.0 M Sports 5dr automatic, sat nav, Bluetooth, 34k, orange, full oyster leather **£17495**

15 65 BMW 218 GRAN TOURER I Luxury 5dr Automatic (7-Seater), sat nav, heated seats, pdc front + rear, 10k, white, full leather **£16995**

16 66 BMW 320 I M Sport GT 5dr, BMW warranty Dec 2019, sat nav, heated seats, full black panel display, privacy glass, silver, full leather **£15495**

18 18 BMW 320 I M Sport Shadow Edition 4dr Automatic, BMW warranty April 2021, reverse camera, heated seats, sat nav, Harman kardon, 7k, blue, full leather **£21995**

17 67 BMW 330 2.0 E SE 4dr Automatic, BMW warranty Sept 2020, sat av, 18"M sport alloys, 11k, privacy glass, choice **£18995**

16 66 BMW 420 I Luxury Gran Coupe 4dr Automatic, BMW warranty Oct 2019, sat nav, reverse camera, heated seats, 16k, white, full leather **£20995**

16 16 BMW 430i M Sport 2dr Automatic, M sport plus pack, 19" alloys, Harman Kardon, wide screen sat nav, met grey, full leather **£21495**

15 15 BMW 435 3.0 I M Sport Convertible Automatic, sat nav, reverse camera, Harman kardon, black, full leather **£22995**

16 16 BMW 420 D 190 M Sport 2dr Automatic (190bhp), sat nav, heated seats, grey, full leather **£17995**

15 15 BMW 520 DSE 4dr Automatic, sat nav, 18"alloys, heated seats, choice, full leather **£12995**

15 65 BMW 520 DM Sport 4dr Automatic, sat nav, 18"alloys, heated seats, choice, full leather **£14495**

15 15 BMW 530 3.0 D M Sport Estate Automatic, m sport + pack, sat nav, 19"alloys, grey, full leather **£17995**

15 15 BMW M5 4.4 4dr DCT Automatic, sunroof, sat nav, reverse camera, 20"alloys, 34k, blue, full leather **£29995**

16 65 BMW 640 D M Sport Gran Coupe 4dr Automatic, BMW warranty March 2019, sat nav, 19"Alloys, 30k, black, full leather **£23995**

16 66 CITROEN C1 1.0 VTI Feel 5dr, Citroen warranty Oct 2019, air-con, Bluetooth, aux, usb, dab, choice **£5795**

14 14 CITROEN DS3 1.6 E-HDI 115 Airdream DSport 3dr, air-con, aux, cruise, 30k, white **£6995**

16 66 DS DS3 1.6 BlueHDI Prestige 3dr, sat nav, Bluetooth, cruise, dab, black **£8495**

15 15 DS DS4 1.6 BlueHDI DStyle Nav 5dr, sat nav, cruise, pdc, aux, white **£7995**

12 62 FIAT 500 1.2 Lounge 3dr, pan roof, Bluetooth, alloys, 24k, blue **£4995**

15 15 FIAT 500 1.2 S 3dr, air-con, Bluetooth, alloys, aux, usb, white, half-leather **£5795**

17 17 FIAT 500 1.2 Lounge 3dr, pan roof, Bluetooth, PDC, 14k, choice **£7295**

15 65 FIAT 500X 1.6 D MultiJet Cross 5dr, 17"alloys, Bluetooth, privacy glass, 31k, red **£9495**

16 65 FORD ECOSPORT 1.0 EcoBoost Titanium 5dr, cruise, Bluetooth, aux, blue, half-leather **£8995**

17 67 FORD FIESTA 1.0 T EcoBoost Zetec 5dr, Ford warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, Bluetooth, 7k, black **£9995**

18 67 FORD FIESTA 1.0 EcoBoost ST-Line 3dr (New Model), Ford warranty February 2021, sat nav, 17"Alloys, Bluetooth, 8k, choice **£12995**

16 66 FORD FOCUS 1.5 TDCI Titanium X Estate, Ford warranty Nov 2019, sat nav, 17"alloys, 29k, black, half-leather **£12495**

15 15 FORD FOCUS 2.0 TDCI Titanium X Navigation 5dr, reverse camera, heated seats, black, half-leather **£9295**

15 65 FORD FOCUS 2.0 TDCI 185 ST-3 Navigation 5dr, sat nav, heated seats, blue, full leather **£12995**

16 66 FORD KUGA 1.5 T EcoBoost ST-Line 5dr, Ford warranty Jan 2020, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, 23k, white, half-leather **£17495**

14 64 FORD MONDEO 1.6 TDCI Eco Titanium X Business Edition Estate, sat nav, pdc front + rear, red, half-leather **£8995**

15 65 FORD MONDEO 2.0 TDCI Econetic Titanium 5dr, sat nav, cruise, dab, aux, choice **£9995**

15 65 HYUNDAI TUCSON 1.7 CRDI BlueDrive SE Nav 5dr, Hyundai warranty Oct 2020, reverse camera, sat nav, grey **£12495**

15 65 JAGUAR XE 2.0 D 180 R-Sport 4dr Automatic, sat nav, cruise, heated seats, dab, privacy glass, 25k, black, full leather **£17495**

16 66 JAGUAR XF 2.0 D (180) R-Sport 4dr Automatic, Jaguar warranty Oct 2019, sat nav, 18"alloys, heated seats, choice, full leather **£19795**

14 64 KIA CARENS 1.7 CRDI 3 5dr (7-Seater), Kia warranty Oct 2021, pan roof, reverse camera, 33k, silver, full leather **£11995**

17 66 KIA OPTIMA 1.7 CRDI ISG GT-Line S Estate Automatic, Kia warranty Feb 2024, pan roof, sat nav, reversing camera, heated seats, 15k, met red, full leather **£17495**

16 66 KIA SPORTAGE 1.6 GDI 1 5dr, KIA warranty Sept 2023, air-con, cruise, Bluetooth, dab, 21k, 13k, choice **£11995**

16 16 MAZDA 2 1.5 Sport Nav 5dr, Mazda warranty June 2019, sat nav, cruise, privacy glass, 28k, red **£8995**

15 15 MAZDA 3 2.2 D Sport Nav 5dr, heated seats, sat nav, 18"alloys, black, full leather **£9495**

17 17 MAZDA 6 2.2 D SE-L Nav Estate, Mazda warranty April 2020, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, pdc, dab, aux & usb, white **£13795**

15 15 MAZDA CX-5 2.2 D Sport Nav 5dr, sat nav, Bluetooth, reverse camera, 19"alloys, red, full leather **£12495**

15 15 MERCEDES A180 1.6 SE 5dr, reverse camera, air-con, Bluetooth, pdc, grey **£10995**

18 67 MERCEDES A200 2.2 DSE 5dr Automatic, Mercedes warranty Feb 2021, sat nav, reverse camera, 15k, grey, full leather **£16995**

16 66 MERCEDES AMG C63 4.0 Premium Estate Automatic, Mercedes warranty Oct 2019, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, 21k, black, full leather **£36995**

15 65 MERCEDES C300 2.2 H Sport Premium Estate Automatic, pan roof, reverse camera, 38k, blue, full leather **£19995**

16 66 MERCEDES CLA200 Sport Estate, Mercedes warranty Oct 2019, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, 12k, grey, half leather **£17995**

13 13 MERCEDES E220 2.2 CDI SE 4dr 7G Automatic, sat nav, 31k, silver, full leather **£13495**

16 16 MERCEDES E220 D AMG Line 4dr 9G-Tronic (New Model), sat nav, cruise, heated seats, choice, half-leather **£21495**

15 15 MERCEDES E250 2.2 CDI AMG Line Convertible 7G Automatic, sat nav, heated seats, 32k, white, full leather **£18995**

10 60 MINI COOPER 1.6 Camden 3dr, cruise, Bluetooth, 55k, silver, half-leather **£5795**

16 66 MINI COOPER 1.5 Cooper 5dr, Mini warranty Oct 2019, pepper pack, 16"black alloys, privacy glass, orange **£10795**

15 65 MINI COOPER 1.5 D 5dr, chilli pack, sat nav, orange, half-leather **£9995**

16 66 MINI COOPER 2.0 D S 5dr, Mini warranty Oct 2019, privacy glass, Bluetooth, dab 16"alloys in black, 6k, white **£12995**

17 17 MINI COOPER 2.0 S Seven 5dr (192bhp), Mini warranty June 2020, media pack XL, sat nav, chili pack, 8k, black **£16495**

15 65 MINI COUNTRYMAN 1.6 Cooper D Business Edition 5dr, sat nav, cruise, 17"alloys, 33k, white **£12995**

15 65 NISSAN JUKE 1.6 DIG-T Tekna 5dr, sat nav, reverse camera, white, full leather **£9795**

17 67 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.2 DIG-T Acenta 5dr (New Model), Nissan warranty Jan 2021, sat nav, tech pack, 5k, red **£15495**

15 65 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI N-Tec + 5dr, sat nav, pan roof, reverse camera, cruise, choice **£10995**

16 66 NISSAN X-TRAIL 1.6 DCI Acenta 5dr X-Tronic 7-Seater, Nissan warranty Oct 2019, pan roof, cruise, 23k, black **£16495**

17 67 RENAULT CAPTUR 0.9 TCE Energy Expression + 5dr, Renault warranty Nov 2021, Bluetooth, cruise, 6k, black **£10995**

14 64 RENAULT CAPTUR 1.5 DCI Energy Dynamique Medianav 5dr, sat nav, Bluetooth, 43k, white **£7995**

15 65 RENAULT CLIO 0.9 TCE Dynamique S MediaNav 5dr, Renault warranty Jan 2020, sat nav, 23k, black **£7995**

15 65 RENAULT CLIO 1.5 DCI 90 Dynamique S Nav 5dr, Renault warranty Nov 2019, sat nav, cruise, aux, choice **£7995**

16 66 RENAULT KADJAR 1.5 DCI Energy S Dynamique Nav 5dr, Renault warranty Dec 2020, sat nav, 19"alloys, cruise, 9k, silver **£14495**

17 67 SEAT LEON 1.4 TSI 125 FR Technology 5dr, Seat warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, 9k, choice from **£12995**

16 16 SEAT LEON 2.0 TSI Cupra 3dr (290bhp), Seat warranty August 2019, sat nav, heated seats, 19"alloys, 15k, red, full leather **£16995**

16 66 SKODA OCTAVIA 2.0 TDI SE-L 5dr, Skoda warranty Dec 2019, sat nav, Bluetooth, dab, black **£11995**

17 17 SKODA SUPERB 2.0 TDI Laurin & Klement 5dr DSG Automatic, sat nav, Bluetooth, full leather, silver **£18995**

16 16 SUZUKI VITARA 1.6 DDIS SZ5, Suzuki warranty Feb 2019, sat nav, reverse camera, pan roof, turquoise **£11495**

17 67 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 CDTI Elite 5dr, Vauxhall warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, Bluetooth, 20k, silver, full leather **£11995**

17 17 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 Energy Ecoflex 5dr, Vauxhall warranty April 2020, Bluetooth, cruise, 13k, grey **£7995**

16 16 VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 1.6 CDTi ecoFLEX Design 5dr, Bluetooth, cruise, 28k, silver **£8995**

14 64 VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTI ECOFlex SRI VX-Line 5dr, vxr styling pack, sat nav, 19"Alloys, bose, 33k, black **£10995**

17 66 VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTI (170) EcoFlex SRI NAV Estate, Vauxhall warranty Jan 2020, sat nav, 17"alloys, 22k, met blue **£10995**

11 11 VW BEETLE 1.4 Luna Convertible 75ps, pdc, alloys, red **£4995**

16 66 VW GOLF 1.0 TSI Match Bluemotion Edition 5dr, VW warranty Sept 2019, sat nav, heated seats, Bluetooth, cruise, 10k, silver **£13995**

15 15 VW GOLF 2.0 TDI BlueMotion Tech GT 5dr, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, dab, pdc, grey **£10495**

16 16 VW GOLF 2.0 TDI GTD 5dr, VW warranty June 2019, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, heated seats, 18k, choice **£15795**

16 66 VW POLO 1.4 TSI ACT Blue GT 3dr, VW warranty Dec 2019, electric glass sunroof, Bluetooth, cruise, choice **£11995**

11 61 VW SCIROCCO 2.0 TDI BlueMotion Tech 3dr, Bluetooth, air-con, white **£7995**

16 66 VW SCIROCCO 2.0 GT TDI BLUEMOTION TECHNOLOGY 3dr, VW warranty Nov 2019, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, 16k, white **£15995**

16 66 VW TIGUAN 2.0 TDI BMT SE NAV 5dr, VW warranty Oct 2019, sat nav, cruise, 18"alloys, aux, usb, 9k, grey **£20995**

14 64 VOLVO V40 1.6 D2 R-Design 5dr, cruise, heated seats, dab, Bluetooth, choice **£9495**

16 66 VOLVO XC60 2.0 D4 R-Design Lux Nav 5dr Automatic, Volvo warranty Oct 2019, sat nav, heated seats, 18"alloys, privacy glass, 23k, black, half-leather **£21995**

12 12 FORD FOCUS 1.6 TDCI 115 Zetec S 5dr, Bluetooth, 17"alloys, 55k, white **£6995**

16 66 FORD FIESTA 1.0 EcoBoost 140 ST-Line 3dr, Ford warranty Nov 2019, air-con, 17"alloys, privacy glass, 15k, black **£9995**

15 65 BMW 320 D M Sport 4dr Automatic, M sport+ pack, sat nav, 19"alloys, black, full leather **£14995**

15 15 RENAULT TWINGO 1.0 Dynamique 5dr, air-con, cruise, Bluetooth, 37k, white **£5295**

16 16 FIAT 500 1.2 Pop Star 3dr, air-con, alloys, aux, usb, 12k, pink **£6795**

09 09 MERCEDES SLK200 Kompressor Convertible Automatic, airscarf, heated seats, parktronic, 50k, grey, full leather **£8495**

16 66 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI N-Connecta 5dr, Nissan warranty Nov 2019, sat nav, reverse camera, cruise, 21k, blue **£13495**

12 12 BMW 320 D EfficientDynamics 4dr, reverse camera, 18"alloys, privacy glass, pdc, 46k, silver, full leather **£9995**

16 66 NISSAN JUKE 1.6 Visia 5dr, Nissan warranty Dec 2019, air-con, CD player, aux, alloys, 26k, red **£8295**

17 67 KIA SPORTAGE 1.7 CRDi 3 ISG 5dr, Kia warranty Sept 2024, pan roof, sat nav, 19"alloys, reverse camera, 19k, blue, full leather **£18495**

14 64 RENAULT CAPTUR 1.5 DCI Dynamique S Medianav Energy 5dr, sat nav, reverse camera, 23k, choice **£8495**

17 67 CITROEN C3 1.2 Pure Flair 5dr, Citroen warranty Dec 2020, sat nav, Bluetooth, reverse camera, 11k, silver **£9995**

11 11 KIA SPORTAGE 1.7 CRDI 1 5dr, Bluetooth, cruise, aux, usb, 37k, silver **£7995**

15 15 PEUGEOT 2008 1.6 E-HDI Allure 5dr Automatic, cruise, Bluetooth, black **£7995**

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63 JAGUAR XF Luxury 2.2D Auto In silver, 48,000 miles, heated leather, sat nav, lots of extras **£13,295**

10 RANGE ROVER 3-6 TDV8 Vogue Auto Galway green/black leather, Sat Nav ..... **Reduced to £10,495**

13 AUDI A1 S-Line 1.4 TFSi 5dr Automatic In red, 73,000 miles, very nice example **£9,995**

13 MINI Cooper S 'Bayswater Edition' In black with black leather, 52,000 miles, pan roof, etc **£9,495**

15 VW Polo 1.4TDi SE 5-Dr In met-red, 25,000 miles, low running costs **£8,995**

12 FORD GRAND C-MAX 2.0 TDCi Titanium, Auto, Met terrian with leather, 46,000 miles, 7 seater with sat nav, pan roof etc **£8,995**

09 AUDI A4 Avant S Line 2.0 TDi In black, 69,000 miles half leather, Xenons, etc **£8,295**

65 SKODA Fabia 1.0 MPi SE 5dr In black, 22,000 miles, 1 owner **£7,995**

61 HYUNDAI IX35 Style 2WD 1.7 CRDI in silver, 52,000 miles, two owners ..... **Reduced to £7,995**

14 HONDA Civic 1.6 Diesel, SE+, 5-Dr In silver 68,000 miles, free road tax **£7,995**

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63 NISSAN Juke 1.5 DCi Acenta Met-burgundy, 71,000 mile diesel, great value at **£6,995**

60 MINI Cooper 1.6D Convertible in black with leather trim, 52,000 miles, Chilli pack etc **£6,995**

13 FORD C-Max Zetec 1.0 Turbo In silver, 69,000 miles, low running costs ..... **Reduced by £500 to £6,995**

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08 Audi A3, 2.0+ tdi sport convertible, In red, 55,000 miles, superb example **£6,995**

64 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 TOCA Estate In black, 14,000 miles, superb throughout **£6,995**

13 FORD Focus 1.0 Turbo Zetec 5dr, in met grey, 40,000 miles, one owner, £30 road tax **£6,995**

62 NISSAN Note N-TEC+ Automatic 1.6 In red, only 24,000 miles, sat nav, half leather **£6,995**

64 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 SE 5-Dr In met grey, 44,000 miles, a/c, etc **£6,495**

15 FIAT 500 1.2S In electric blue, 22,000 miles, very nice example at **£6,495**

13 SKODA Rapid 1.2 TSi Elegance In met grey, 51,000 miles, ideal family hatch **£6,295**

13 FORD Fiesta 1.5 TDCi Zetec 5-Dr In silver, 49,000 miles, free road tax **£6,295**

63 KIA Rio 2 1.2 3-Dr In silver, only 11,000 miles from new .. .. **Reduced by £1,000 to £5,995**

61 MINI One 1.6 in red, 34,000 miles, very nice example at ..... **Reduced by £800 to £5,995**

61 FORD Focus 1.6 Titanium Turbo 5dr met mustard olive, 66,000 miles, great colour **£5,995**

62 TOYOTA Yaris TR 1.4 D-4D 3-Dr In black, 33,000 mile diesel with reversing camera **£5,995**

60 MERCEDES B160 Blue Efficiency Sport In black, 64,000 miles, nice example **£5,995**

14 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 SE 5-Dr In met-black, 43,000 miles, a/c, alloys etc **£5,995**

08 NISSAN X-TRAIL 2.0D Aventura In met blue, 95,000 miles, sat nav, pan-roof etc **£5,995**

14 HYUNDAI i10 se 1.2 In black, only 16,000 miles, low insurance **£5,995**

64 FIAT 500S In met grey, 48,000 miles, very nice example **£5,695**

63 FIAT 500S 1.2 in midnight indigo, 32,000 miles, £30 road tax, Facelift Model .. **Reduced by £700 to £5,295**

10 MINI Cooper S In electric blue with white roof etc, high spec hot hatch **£4,995**

63 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.0 Ecoflex S 3-Dr In white, 26,000 miles, £30 road tax **£4,495**

63 DACIA Sandero Ambiance In black, 53,000 miles **£4,495**

62 HYUNDAI i10 Active 1.2 In white, 34,000 miles, £20 road tax **£4,495**

12 HYUNDAI i10 Classic 1.2 In silver, 22,000 miles, 2 owners, a/c, etc **£4,495**

10 HONDA Civic 1.8 Si 5-Dr In red, 91,000 miles, very nice throughout ..... **Reduced to £4,495**

11 FORD FIESTA 1.4TDCi Edge, 5-Dr, In silver, 60,000 miles, £20 road tax **£4,295**

60 MINI Cooper 1.6 Diesel In black, fantastic mpg & free road tax ..... **Reduced to £3,995**

59 MAZDA 3 1.6 S 5dr, in electric blue, 67,000 miles, ideal family car **£3,995**

13 SUZUKI ALTO 1.0 SZ Free, 5-Dr, In cherry pink, 37,000 miles, 1 owner, free road tax **£3,995**

12 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 Active 3dr In white, 52,000 miles, 2 owners with A/C **£3,995**

12 KIA Picanto 1.0 3-Dr In black, 47,000 miles, free road tax, low insurance **£3,995**

11 FORD Ka 1.2 Edge In black, 32,000 miles, £30 road tax **£3,995**

60 HYUNDAI i10 Classic 1.2, 5-Dr In black, 45,000 miles, low insurance and road tax **£3,495**

08 FORD C-Max 1.8 Zetec metallic red, 52,000 miles, 1 owner, ... **Reduced by £700 to £2,999**

08 VW EOS 2.0 FSi In black, 83,000 miles 4-seater convertible ..... **Reduced by £700 to £2,995**

60 VAUXHALL AGILA 1.2S 5-Dr, In electric blue, 76,000 miles, low insurance **£2,995**

13 FORD FOCUS 1.0 TURBO ZETEC
In Metallic Grey, 40,000 miles
£6,995

10 RANGE ROVER 3-6 TDV8 VOGUE Auto
Galway Green/black leather, sat nav
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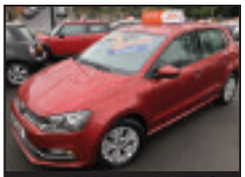
63 VAUXHALL Astra 2.0 CDTI SRi
Ice blue, 45,000 mile diesel hatch
£6,995



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Festive fun for Brynhill ladies

THE Brynhill Golf Club ladies section always have a celebration whenever they can fit one into their busy golfing calendar.

Most recently they celebrated their Mince Pie and Secret Santa afternoon. Lots of gifts were won and lost with ladies trying to finish up with the gift they liked the most. This year the most popular gifts were a singing dog and a white squirrel.

On behalf of the ladies, Robbie Lee thanked ladies captain Sam Pascoe for organising the fun-filled afternoon and thanks to Liz Fine for providing the wine.

The ladies' AGM and fixture night will be held at Brynhill Golf Club on Tuesday, February 5 at 6pm.

JMK

Barry Vets impress in cup match

MERTHYR Vets welcomed Barry Vets to a wet and cold Abercynon for this Over-55s Right Equity Release Cup match.

In a chaotic first few minutes, both sides had opportunities to score but it was the visitors who went ahead when Paul Welsh finished clinically after a mix up in the home defence.

The goal had a contradictory affect on the game with Barry becoming casual with both passing and movement and Merthyr responding positively, albeit in a slightly cavalier manner.

Barry were also neglecting their defensive responsibilities and Merthyr's Tony Jones should have converted at least one of a triumvirate of chances created.

The small pitch didn't suit Barry's passing game but the talismanic Mike Bobbett continued his excellent run of form in an error-strewn contest. Barrie Marshall, also playing well, extended Barry's lead going into the interval, with a neat finish.

After a dressing-down by player/manager Jimmy Blackie, Barry started more positively in the second half and a rare flowing move ended with substitute Chris Rutherford giving his team a comfortable lead with his very first touch.

However, Merthyr's never-say-die attitude had to be applauded and they pressed forward regardless. Their endeavours were rewarded when the influential Mark Price headed home well when unmarked at a corner, and although the hosts had the lions share of possession for the remainder of the game, Barry glove-man Jones was rarely tested and the Seasiders held on for a precious win.

With no further games until January 6, Barry are well-placed in all competitions – the over-55s top their group in the cup and are second in the league with a game in hand, while the over-50s are three points off the league leaders with a game in hand and face Cwmbran in the cup semi-final on February 3.

AH

Barry and District League tables and results

CRIB DIVISION 1:

Rhoose Social 9, West End Runaways 6; Cadoxton Cons 2, Liberals 13; West End 4, Moors Boys 11.

League table: Liberals 95, Rhoose Social 95, Cadoxton Cons 88, West End 88, Runaways 87,

Wyndham Cons 83, Moors Boys 79.

S K I T T L E S DIVISION 1:

Rhoose Social B 3.5, Slammers 3.5; King William XII 4.5, Liberals A 2.5; Allsorts 5, Cambrian Flyers 2; Rhoosters 5, Rhoose Social A 2; Sea View Exiles 2, West End C 5; Barry Town FC 2, Rugby Club 5; Liberals C 4, Rhoose Social C 3.

League table: West End C 66.5, Sea View Exiles 65.5, Barry Town FC 59.0, Allsorts 57.5, Rhoosters 57.0, King William XII 52.5, Rugby Club 52.0, West End D 51.0, Rhoose Social C 50.0, Rhoose Social A 48.5, Slammers 42.5, Liberals A 40.5, Liberals C 40.0, Rhoose Social B 34.5, Barries Boys 27.5, Cambrian Flyers 18.5.

S N O O K E R DIVISION 1:

Cadoxton Cons Z 3, West End C 2; Penarth Cons A 2, Wyndham Cons A 3; Rhoose Social B 2, Market Street B 3; Harbour B 5, Cadoxton Cons B 0; Liberators 2, Savoy A 3.

League table: Savoy A 47, West End C 44, Cadoxton Cons Z 38, Harbour B 37, Wyndham Cons A 36, Cadoxton Cons B 34, Cadoxton Wildcats 25, Penarth Cons A 25, *Liberators 21, Rhoose Social B 18, Market Street B 16.

S N O O K E R DIVISION 2:

West End B 1, Market Street C 4; Penarth Cons B 3, Wyndham Cons D 2; Rhoose Social C 2, Cadoxton Cons A 3; West End A 1, Sully Sports A 4; Savoy B 4, Services Social B 1.

League table: Cadoxton Cons A 41, Penarth Cons B 40, Rhoose Social C 40, Savoy B 38, Market Street C 36, *Services Social B 34, Harbour A 32, West End A 31, Wyndham Cons D 31, Sully Sports A 25, West End B 18 (* = points deducted).

View all results and league tables at www.barryleagues.co.uk.

JW

Llantwit Major Bowls Club indoor section celebrates most wonderful time

THE indoor section of Llantwit Major Bowls Club held the end of year party in Llantwit Major Rugby Club, as the Bowls Club is closed while the new changing rooms and toilets are being built.

Over 27 members attended a 'bring a plate' party and an enjoyable time was had by all. Ken Williams, who runs this section said that new members are always welcome, and if you are interested, we are open from the beginning of January next year.

So, if you are looking for a pleasant time and gentle exercise by spending an afternoon playing carpet bowls, meeting new people and having a cup of tea and biscuit for just £2 a week, come along to the Rugby Club Monday to Thursday from 2pm to 4pm. Further details can be found on the website www.lmbc.wales.

Another successful year for Barry Beavers

LAST year ws another fantastic year for the Barry Beavers Disabled Swimming Club, with achievements and successes for the whole club.

One of these successes was eight of the gala team successfully competed in the Nationals in Sevenoaks Kent and the swimming club gala team retained the Regional Cup from last year.

This success is down to the time put in with the timings, the coaching and a dedicated swimming gala team. On top of the regional and national galas, there have been a lot of good gala performances throughout the swimming calendar year, including some of the swimmers having to upgrade their own previous events from 25m up to 100m events.

More swimmers achieved their green, red and yellow badges during club sessions, along with the club gaining more members over the year as helpers and swimmers, which has been a great acheivement.

Barry Beavers took part in a swimathon on April 22 at Bridgend to raise some funds for the club, as well as for the host team and they all swam well. A team of 12 Beavers took part in the special gala on behalf of Lyndsy, who is battling illness at her swimming club.

The club's PIP 3 had a great turnout with members from the other teams attending and taking part in some of the performances and entertainment on the day. There were sparkly tattoos, face painting and merchandise to sell, along with a raffle and a barbecue, at which the club's cooks made some great food for all who attended.

To end the year, the club held their Christmas party at Jenner Park Football Club in Barry at which there was a great turnout on the night with a raffle and presentation of awards.

Darren and Josey Kerr ran a disco, with performances from club members entertaining everyone. There was also a special guest, Santa, who handed out gifts to the children at the party.

NC

Vale Bridge club latest

THE results for the Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club for December 17 are as follows:

First, Phil Felman and David Birt 71.46 per cent; second, Irene Thomas and Graham Jones 62.08 ; third, Glenda Roberts and Liam Sheridan 59.38.

LE

Barry and District Mens Skittles League results

ALAN Rosser Cup:

GROUP A - Barry Park B 247, Royalists 291; Billy Whizz 273, Tynny Lads 243.

Table: Royalists 4, Billy Whizz 2, Barry Park B 2, Tynny Lads 0.

GROUP B - British Rail 358, KP Rejects 367; Park Lads 352, Cannon Balls 366.

Table: KP Rejects 4, Park Lads 2, Cannon Balls 2, British Rail 0.

GROUP C - 49ers 308, Alternatives 276; Hairy Lemons 292, H Bells 293.

Table: H Bells 4, 49ers 2, Hairy Lemons 0, Alternatives 0.

GROUP D - Geest 245, Glenbrook Flyers 271.

Table: Glenbrook Flyers 4, Mighty Dockers 2, Geest 0, Cocoa Nuts 0.

GROUP E - Cavaliers 284, Colcot Boys 283.

Table: Cavaliers 4, Posties 2, Colcot Boys 2, Abercrete 0.

GROUP F - Sea View 278, Castle Boys 254; Witchill Nomads 254, Bunker Boys 287.

Table: Sea View 8, Castle Boys 4, Exiles 2, Bunker Boys 2, Witchill Nomads 0.

GROUP G - Willie Wombles 244, Billy Bluebirds 129; Park Rangers 286, BP Breakaways 265; Billy Bluebirds 264, Witchill Poachers 255.

Table: Willie Wombles 6, Park Rangers 6, BP Breakaways 2, Billy Bluebirds 2, Witchill Poachers 0.

GROUP H - Merrymen 5, Master Mariner 0; C.U.D. 247, Blue Monkey 270; Master Mariner 0, Ex-Servicemen 5.

Table: Merrymen 8, Blue Monkey 4, Ex-Servicemen 2, C.U.D. 2, Master Mariner 0.

View all results and tables at www.barryleagues.co.uk.

JW

Got a sports story, match report or item of interest? Email sport@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

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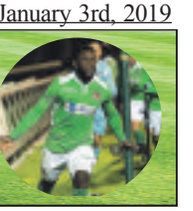

Entertaining derby game sees Cowbridge take the spoils against Pontyclun

LAST Saturday's match between Cowbridge RFC and Pontyclun was never going to be a repeat of the earlier result in September, with a change of tactics, a heavier pitch and local, vocal support it was a tough encounter.

A large crowd was entertained to a local derby with no quarter given by either side.

The drizzle of the morning cleared and the pitch was in pretty good nick considering. Both teams were rusty having not played for some time, in Pontyclun's case since October.

The referee got things started but Cowbridge didn't field the kick off well and found themselves under immediate pressure resulting, some three minutes later, with an unconverted try to the left of the posts as centre and captain Luke Rose found a hole in the defence.

Minutes later Cowbridge worked their way up field with hooker Craig Boxall and flanker for the day Ian Overton taking the ball up and a penalty gave full back Josh Thomas his first three points.

Pontyclun responded with a penalty kick of their own through scrum half Nicky Theaker.

Eleven minutes in and a darting run by scrum half Hywel Williams taken on by captain Ross Gibbon resulted in a second penalty for Thomas for a high tackle. Two penalty misses by Pontyclun, one following a thumping tackle in midfield on centre Ash Thomas that left him seeing stars for some time, meant Cowbridge were still in it.

A tactical swap brought on Dai Breed and within minutes he made a bustling five metre run that ended with an ankle tap.

Ed Cousins at second row took a crucial defensive lineout to relieve pressure as Pontyclun pressed near the Cowbridge line.

Thomas missed a penalty for the visitors before, with five minutes to half-time, a defining moment as, after an Overton drive, there was dust up amongst the forwards that saw Overton receiving a yellow card but Pontyclun's no 4 a red for attempted gouging.

Two minutes later Thomas put over his third kick to give Cowbridge the lead for the first time, the half-time score 8-9.

Into the second half and a Thomas penalty went under the posts, then more woes for Pontyclun as Cowbridge attacked down the left and Theaker was given a yellow for illegal play. Thomas put his penalty over from 30 metres.

Centre Huw Lougher replaced Tom James. Even with 13 men Pontyclun pressured Cowbridge, with their outside half bringing players onto the ball at pace. Cowbridge were struggling to get their game going and at the midpoint prop George Thomas resumed his position as Breed came to the sidelines. Then came a yellow card against Cowbridge for a high tackle by Williams-Davies and Theaker, restored to the field, put over the kick to make the score 11-12.

In the final 15 minutes Pontyclun continued to attack but Cowbridge's defence held firm and now relieving kicks from wings Adam Dix and Rhydian Williams were finding distance.

Indeed with five minutes remaining, Williams kicked ahead and then was interfered with as he chased it and the penalty from where the ball landed gave Thomas his fifth successful penalty.

Cowbridge pressed now with Williams-Davies making himself available as the extra man, and with the last play of the game lively scrum half Hywel Williams crashed over in almost the same place as Rose had in the opening minutes for an unconverted try, the final score 11-20.

It was tough on Pontyclun that they didn't get a bonus point for their efforts but Cowbridge will take the very important win and points. Cowbridge, led by Ross Gibbon, stuck at it and got the result.

There was a great atmosphere in the clubhouse after the game as acquaintances were renewed

We now have very tough month with Treharris, who beat us in September and had very good win against Tylorstown last Saturday, the visitors to the Athletic Field this Saturday, kick off 2.30pm.

On January 12 we are away at Penarth, on January 19 it;s the third round of the fixtures with Penygraig, this time at home, and then on January 26 comes the all-important trip away to Fairwater. All support is both welcome and much-needed.

The club sends it condolences to Clive Pryce, 'Zats' to one and all, and family following the death of his dear wife Glenys.

On a brighter note we are delighted to hear that Phil Francis came through his major operation and we wish him and Anita all the best in his recovery. **RK/RV**

Youth team play out thriller against Mountain Ash

COWBRIDGE RFC youth played their part in a brilliant game of rugby that resulted in a 27-27 draw with their top of the table rivals Mountain Ash.

Due to a number of injuries and a few boys missing, both teams agreed to play the game with uncontested scrums.

Cowbridge started the sharper and maintained possession for long periods of time. The boys moved the larger Mountain Ash pack from one side of the pitch to the other.

For the first 10 minutes Mountain Ash struggled to get their hands on the ball. Cowbridge deservingly opened the scoring with a well-worked team try executed by outside centre, Rhydian Williams.

From a scrum just outside the Mountain Ash 22, Cowbridge moved the ball across their backs to the far left hand side of the pitch. Evan Thomas then quickly changed direction to move the ball to the far right hand side of the pitch where Benji Williams, the Cowbridge second row, was lurking in the outside centre position. With a simple side step and a pass off his right, Williams put his name sake, Rhydian Williams in the corner.

Straight from the restart Mountain Ash got their first points of the game. Cowbridge failed to make touch from their clearing kick.

The Mountain Ash centre ran hard at the Cowbridge defence when the referee judged the covering tackle a high one. Mountain Ash opted to take the three points on offer.

Getting their first points on the board seemed to give Mountain Ash a fresh start. From an attacking line out on the Cowbridge 10 metre line, Mountain Ash produced a fantastic rolling maul.

The smaller Cowbridge pack struggled to maintain the powerful Mountain Ash forwards. With the line in sight the Mountain Ash number 8 broke away and scored a well-worked forwards try to take the lead.

Cowbridge showed their character by hitting straight back from their restart. Mountain Ash knocked the ball on from the restart, and from the resulting scrum, Cowbridge scored their second try of the game.

From the scrum just inside the Mountain Ash ten metre line, the backs put together a simple but very effective move. With simple passing, executed brilliantly and at pace, Jake Thomas the flying Cowbridge right winger scored out wide.

With the game entering the final stages of the first half, the lead changed hands for the third time. Mountain Ash executed another very effective rolling maul to get to within five metres of the Cowbridge line. A few simple pop passes and the powerful Mountain Ash second row went over for the games fourth try and Mountain Ash's second, to make the half-time score Cowbridge 10, Mountain Ash 15.

Cowbridge started the second half as they had started the first and managed to get inside the Mountain Ash 22 straight from the kick off.

Iestyn Galton turned the ball over and Will O'Connor sniped down the blind side. O'Connor side stepped off his right and the referee judged the Mountain Ash covering tackle as high. Evan Williams stepped up and slotted the penalty kick to get Cowbridge back to within two points.

Cowbridge were beginning to put a number of phases together and were camped inside the Mountain Ash 22. A number of over lap opportunities were created only for the last pass not to go to hand.

After a concerted 10 minutes, finally Cowbridge crossed for their third try of the game. Ruben Williams and Cameron Roy made the hard yards inside the Mountain Ash 22.

O'Connor moved the ball out wide, only to find Benji Williams waiting at first receiver, who took on the defence and offloaded to Rhydian Williams to put Cowbridge 20-15 up.

Cowbridge were now on top but Mountain Ash were defending hard and trying to clear their line at every opportunity and 10 metres from their own line Mountain Ash tried to run the ball, only for the excellent Cowbridge defence to read the play and Jack Forsyth scored an interception try under the posts.

Needing to score two tries, Mountain Ash resorted back to playing the rugby that got them the lead in the first half. A well-executed rolling maul from just outside the Cowbridge 22, resulted in the visitors scoring their third try of the game and as the game entered its final stages, Mountain Ash were finishing the stronger.

A cowbridge clearance kick went straight to the Mountain Ash full back, who ran back at the now-struggling covering Cowbridge defence. The full back drew the last defender and put his centre clear to score just to the left of the posts to make the scores level at 27-27.

There was just enough time for the restart. Cowbridge forced themselves into their visitors 22 and following a number of phases of play the referee penalised Mountain Ash for consistently being off side at the breakdown.

With the referee declaring the next phrase of play will be the last Cowbridge opted for a scrum and called a complicated backs move, only for the final pass to not go to hand and drift slightly forward. The referee called the end of a great game of rugby. **GJ**

Good away win for Llantwit Major AFC

LLANTWIT Major travelled to Goytre Utd for this league fixture after a two week break determined to stop a sequence of having only one win in their last four league games.

Both sides were trying to get the opening goal in what was turning out to be a very tight affair in the wet and miserable conditions.

Llantwit had their goalkeeper Jack Lansdown to thank on the half-hour mark when he prevented a Goytre goal.

They intercepted a Llantwit crossfield pass on the halfway line and Landsown had to come off his goal line to bravely save at the feet of the Goytre striker. Half-time arrived with the game goalless and evenly balanced.

The second half began with Llantwit immediately on the attack and some fine inter play saw the resulting low cross into the six-yard area being pushed away by the Goytre keeper for a corner.

In the 60th minute Llantwit nearly scored when Dale Stephenson's shot from around 10 yards out was tipped over the bar by the Goytre goalkeeper for a very good save.

Llantwit squandered another opportunity when Anthony Rawlings shot wide of the goals from around 12 yards out.

In the 73rd minute Llantwit finally broke the deadlock when, from a free kick in the centre circle, which was taken by Darren Robinson, his cross was met by fellow centre-half Sean Williams who, from around 10 yards out on the left-hand side of the goal, headed the ball back across the goal into the far corner of the net for a thoroughly deserved lead. Llantwit will be very pleased with this win and the well-earned three points now moves them up the table into eighth position. **DJ**

Cowbridge Darts League round-up

THE year ended with a team knock-out competition on Tuesday, December 18, hosted by the Edmondes Arms.

Eight of the 10 teams in the league entered the completion and provided for an exciting evening of darts in a festive atmosphere.

The outcome of the evening is that the Edmondes B will play the Hairy Farmers in the final. This match will be played on the Tuesday, May 21.

The Edmondes B defeated Llanharry in their semi-final, while the Hairy Farmers just defeated the Red Lion Inn. It was a good night for Luke Richards (Edmondes B) as he hit his fourth 180 of the season.

The end of year league standings are: Edmondes B (61 points), Highwayman Inn (49), Farmers Arms (44), Edmondes A (42), Llanharry and Victoria Inn (39), Hairy Farmers (38), One Town Hall Square (26), Edmondes C (22) and Red Lion Inn (9).

The next matches will be played on Tuesday, January 8. In the league the Edmondes A hosts the One Town Hall Square, the Edmondes C hosts the Red Lion Inn, Llanharry hosts the Highwayman Inn and the Victoria Inn hosts the Farmers Arms. Also the Hairy Farmers host the Edmondes B.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are always welcome.

For further information e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com, up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk. **PJT**

Old Hall Bridge Club results

THE latest results from Old Hall Bridge Club for December 19 are as follows:

First, Teri Pollard and Ann Miller; second, John Raymond and Allan Lewis. **TP**

Penllyn bridge results

PENLLYN Club Bridge results for December:

Thursday, December 13 (14 pairs): 1st David & Marion Stephenson 67.42 per cent, 2nd Judith & Colin Nunn 63.64 per cent, 3rd Phil & Lou Edwards 62.5 per cent.

Thursday, December 20 (16 pairs): 1st John Lord & Jo Ilsley 64.61 per cent, 2nd Helen & Mike Ruttley 60.39 per cent, 3rd Dot Williams & Pam Hanmer 56.82 per cent. **CN**